

Arab shot and wounded in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian from the occupied West Bank was shot and wounded on Tuesday, and the Israeli army said it was investigating his report that he was shot by Israeli soldiers. The Arab, from the village of Tabas, reported to hospital in the West Bank city of Nablus shortly after the Israeli army said soldiers held military exercises in the area. In a separate incident in nearby Balata refugee camp, some 50 Palestinians were shot by Israeli foot patrol Monday night, but caused no injuries, military officials said. On Monday, the Israeli government survived five no-confidence motions despite a walk-out by coalition parliamentarians protesting at Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's support for a Jewish terrorist organisation. The no-confidence motions came after Mr. Shamir defied his own justice minister by voting to grant amnesty to members of a Jewish terrorist group convicted in 1985 of killing three Palestinian students and plotting to blow up mosques. Labour Party parliamentarians left the Knesset floor, saying they wanted to show their opposition to Mr. Shamir's voting against the government's official position.

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Regent visits army unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday made a visit to a unit of the Fourth Royal Armoured Division. The Crown Prince was briefed by the unit's high-ranking officers on its training courses, major activities and duties. Prince Hassan then met with officers of the unit and conveyed to them His Majesty King Hussein's greetings. The Crown Prince, accompanied by a number of officers, also visited a frontline military post.

Gemayel meets Goulding on UNIFIL

BEIRUT (R) — U.N. Under-secretary-General Marrack Goulding met top Lebanese officials on Tuesday to discuss the renewal of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) mandate, official sources said. Mr. Goulding met President Amin Gemayel and other senior officials as part of regional consultations ahead of the expected U.N. Security Council decision later this month, the sources said.

Libya and Tunisia resume air links

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia and Libya have resumed air and communications links severed when Tunis broke diplomatic relations with Tripoli nearly two years ago. The Tunisian state airline Tunisair stopped flying to Libya after the diplomatic rift over a Libyan mass expulsion of migrant workers. The announcement of a resumption of flights, made by a Social Affairs Minister Hedi Baccouche, is the latest in a series of moves to patch up relations, including Libyan repayment of frozen Tunisian assets and compensation for the expelled workers.

Iranian diplomat flees from Turkey

ERZURUM (AP) — An Iranian consulate official fled to his country after being accused of working against Turkey's secular system by a military prosecutor, the Hurriyet news agency reported Tuesday. The dispatch said Habibullah Shahsahani Rashidi, a vice consul in Iran's consulate in this eastern city, escaped from Turkey in a consulate car on July 4 after he learned that he would be tried on charges of making illegal propaganda seeking to change Turkey's social, economic and political system.

Bomb kills 2 Spanish guards

ONATE, Spain (AP) — A bomb belatedly set by Basque rebels exploded Tuesday as a Civil Guard vehicle passed by, killing two guards and seriously wounding two, police said. The attack at about 11 a.m. on a highway outside Onate 35 kilometres south of San Sebastian brings to 29 the number of deaths caused by extremists this year. Police said the attack was similar to previous ones carried out by ETA, the Basque separatist organisation that has claimed responsibility for the deaths of nearly 600 people since 1968, when it began an armed campaign to secure independence for the three-province northern Spanish Basque country.

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Masri reaffirms Jordan's rejection of separate talks to settle Mideast conflict

Foreign minister briefs expatriates on peace efforts

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri on Tuesday reiterated Jordan's position on the proposed Middle East peace conference by reaffirming that no conclusive or lasting peaceful solution to Arab-Israeli conflict could be reached through separate talks.

Mr. Masri, addressing the third conference of Jordanian expatriates which opened Monday, said Jordan's stand remained that Palestinian participation in the proposed forum was imperative since the Palestinian question represented the core of the Middle East conflict. Any partial settlement to the problem that does not take into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people will be neither comprehensive nor durable, Mr. Masri said.

At least 50 killed and 200 injured in Karachi blasts

KARACHI (R) — At least 50 people were killed and about 200 injured on Tuesday when two powerful bombs ripped through rush-hour crowds in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, hospital and police sources said.

The blasts came within half an hour of each other, the first in a crowded street beside Empress Market and the second near the Bohri Bazaar 100 metres away. The government-run Jinnah and civil hospitals issued calls for blood donors and hundreds of anxious people rushed there in search of missing relatives.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, which came nine days after bombs killed seven people and wounded more than 50 in Pakistan's political heartland, Lahore. "I was sitting in my flat when I suddenly saw objects flying through the air and heard a deafening explosion," local resident Qasim Bugti told Reuters. "Many men, women and children were crying for help, many were unconscious on the pavements. I saw women with blood pouring from their ears."

North says he turned down \$1m bribe offer from Iranian arms dealer

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Sacked White House aide Oliver North said Tuesday he was offered a \$1 million bribe by Iranian middleman Manucher Ghorbanifar if he would keep using his service in covert U.S. arms sales to Iran. Lieutenant-Colonel North told the congressional Iran-contra hearings that he rejected the offer, which he said Mr. Ghorbanifar made in London in January last year.

Col. North has been accused of improperly using the pitch to raise money for the Nicaraguan rebels during a congressional ban on government aid to the contras. The panel bickered for more than an hour before Col. North got the floor.

When he did, he said his talk is designed to show "the Soviet threat in this hemisphere" and included descriptions of Soviet weapons found in various Central American countries.

Col. North spoke as he oared the end of his six-day stint in the witness chair — and as former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane waited in the wings to contradict Col. North's testimony on a number of important points. A senator suggested Tuesday that Israel pushed the United States to sell Iran anti-tank missiles out of a desire to cripple Iraq's tank corps.

national peace conference attended by all parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The minister explained that Jordan firmly believed that PLO participation in the proposed conference as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people should compensate for the failure of Resolution 242 to see the Palestinian problem as more than a refugee question and the U.N. document's inherent granting of an advantage as an occupying power and leverage to Israel to decide where to start negotiations.

The PLO refuses to accept Resolutions 242 and 338 on their own as the basis for a settlement to the Palestinian problem. Jordan's insistence on adopting Resolution 242 as the basis for the international conference is aimed at ensuring that the conference will be held and it will achieve what the resolution requires.

Outlining Jordan's efforts to secure international acceptance of an international peace conference on the Middle East conflict, (Continued on page 3)



Taher Al Masri

resents — Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories and an end to the Jewish state's seizure of Arab lands — Mr. Masri told the expatriates attending the conference.

The minister, recalling the 1983 Feb. Arab summit's unanimous endorsement and call for a peaceful settlement with Israel as the only feasible solution to the Middle East conflict, said Jordan had been acting on the basis of this concept and "spearheaded efforts to bring about solidarity among Arab countries, since Arab unity is a prelude towards a settlement."

Head of Soviet team urges Israel to join peace parley.

JEL AVIV (Agencies) — The leader of a Soviet delegation called on Israel on Tuesday to join an international Middle East peace conference, and stated on Monday the forum should not force Israel to accept "unfavourable" terms.

A senior Jewish Agency official, meanwhile, said the Soviet Union has begun permitting Soviet Jewish emigrants to fly directly to Israel via Bucharest, Romania.

This was seen as a concession to Israel, which has sought direct flights to reduce the number of "drop outs," Jewish emigrants who choose to go to the United States or Europe instead of Israel.

The Soviets acknowledged the visit two days after it started in a statement issued by the TASS news agency in Moscow.

The delegation "will meet representatives of appropriate Israeli establishments to solve technical issues of a consular nature connected with the stay of Soviet citizens... in Israel, to examine on the spot the state of Soviet immovable property and regulate its judicial status," it said.

Yevgeny Antipov, head of the first Soviet delegation to visit Israel in 20 years, was rushed by protesters chanting anti-Soviet slogans and demanding freer Jewish emigration as he and other group members visited the Israeli foreign ministry.

"We discussed technical aspects of our visit with head of the legal (complaints) department and chief of the consular department Yakov Aviad," Mr. Antipov told reporters.

Earlier, Mr. Antipov said the Kremlin would no longer insist the Mideast peace conference impose solutions on its participants.

Mr. Antipov, speaking Tuesday on Israel army radio, said the Soviet Union would not renew diplomatic ties with Israel because "the normalisation of the situation in the Middle East should come first and it can be achieved through an international conference."

Delegation members have repeatedly stressed the need for a proposed, international conference on Middle East although they have insisted that their visit is not a vehicle for negotiations between Israel and the Soviet Union on the subject.

"The solution is found in compromise and the good will of all the participants... to achieve lasting peace, all must agree," the deputy head of the consular directorate at the Soviet Foreign Ministry told reporters Monday.

Iraqi jets pound key Iranian base in Gulf for second day

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi planes on Tuesday launched a second strike on an Iranian offshore base in an apparent bid to stop hit-and-run gunboat raids on Gulf shipping before the U.S. navy starts escorting oil tankers in the waterway.

Shipping sources said Iraqi jets zeroed in on fuel storage tanks and radar installations on Al Farsiya Island, Tehran's key base in the northern Gulf for high-speed Swedish-built motor launches used to harass shipping.

A Baghdad high command communiqué said the planes hit the island at 7.56 a.m. but made no mention of Iran's naval facilities, first attacked on Monday after two launches mounted a moonlight raid against a French container vessel.

Lack of spare parts has severely hampered Iran's ability to attack shipping from the air, but aviation sources in the region said Tehran had launched a \$500 million drive to revive its airforce and update missile guidance systems (See page 2).

In their Monday raids, Iraqi jets attacked oil installations at Farsiya, an oil tanker off the Iranian coast, and oil tanker holding area off Kharg Island, Iran's major oil export terminal, in the northern reaches of the Gulf.

Gulf-based maritime salvage executives said the Iraqi warplanes have inflicted heavy damage on Kharg in the late night strike, destroying one of the terminal's two loading berths.

Iran accuses French diplomat of spying

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The French consul in Tehran has been ordered to appear before the Islamic revolution court in Tehran's Evin Prison on charges of "espionage activities against Iran," Tehran Radio reported Tuesday.

The state radio, identified the diplomat as Jean-Paul Torri in a brief report. A more detailed report later said Mr. Torri had been summoned by the court to provide "some explanations."

The radio quoted unidentified "informed sources" as saying he has been charged with "acts of espionage against the interests of Iran."

It said Iranian authorities have also accused him of "contact with fugitive counter-revolutionaries, providing facilities for their activities and their departure from the country, activity in contraband networks and smuggling antiques and foreign exchange out of the country."

The radio said the French chargé d'affaires in Tehran, Pierre de France, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and handed the summons for Mr. Torri.

The radio reported that "a number" of the unidentified counter-revolutionaries have been arrested and that "efforts to identify others continue." It did not elaborate.

Iran's Islamic regime holds hundreds of political detainees in Evin Prison, on Tehran's north-western outskirts.

It was notorious as a torture centre by the late Shah Muhammad Reza Pahlavi's secret police, Savak, before Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's revolution toppled the monarch in 1979.

The announcement came the day after Tehran radio denounced the alleged beating of an Iranian diplomat by French police at Geneva airport Saturday as "a savage act."

The developments marked a sharp deterioration in Franco-Iranian relations. These have been severely strained since June 30 when French police raided the Iranian embassy in Paris in a hunt for Wahid Gerdji, a translator authorities want to question in connection with bombings in the capital last year.

Mr. Gerdji was "suspected of having taken part in terrorist acts in France," he said. "The law is the law and an Iranian just as any other must submit to it."

Iran has accused French police of beating up an Iranian diplomat at Geneva airport on Saturday and stealing official documents from him.

The accusations against Mr. Torri came the day after Iranian Revolutionary Guards attacked a French freighter.

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(Continued on page 3)

Fahd urges more efforts to end war

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has called for more efforts by Arab and Islamic countries to persuade Iran to accept a ceasefire and end its war with Iraq.

The king made the call at a cabinet meeting in the summer resort of Taif Monday night, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The monarch said "sincere Arab land Islamic efforts" were needed to convince Iran to stop the bloodshed and settle differences with Iraq through peaceful negotiations and good neighbourly relations.

This was necessary to "keep dangers away from the region," said the king, whose remarks were reported by Information Minister Ali Hassan Al Shaer.

Meanwhile, Iraq insisted anew it would not accept partial solutions related to its shipping blockade in a war zone in the Gulf except as part of a comprehensive cod to the war.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, in an interview with the Arabic-language magazine Kafil Al Arab, said an Iranian campaign for an end to the "tanker war" was aimed at "fracturing the solution or keeping the international community away from dealing with a comprehensive settlement."

Moscow and Peking support arms embargo, page 2

King Hassan begins state visit to Britain

LONDON (Agencies) — King Hassan of Morocco, who is seeking a higher profile on the world stage, began a state visit to Britain on Tuesday hoping to win support for the country of his country in the European Community (EC).

British officials said the king would also discuss Morocco's war against Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara as well as its trade position, which has been adversely affected by the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EC, and the Middle East.

The king, who is on a three-day visit to Britain, will meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Wednesday.

Algerian-backed Polisario front guerrillas have been fighting Moroccan troops for 11 years in an effort to gain independence for the Western Sahara. Polisario officials in London have protested about King Hassan's visit.

At least 50 members of the House of Lords circulated a letter through parliament on Tuesday, petitioning that "an British weapon should be delivered to Morocco while the king persists with his unjustifiable war of aggression."

Britain promised last December to help Morocco obtain trade concessions from the EC in the face of new competition from Spain and Portugal, which because of their climates produce similar products to Morocco such as citrus fruit and tomatoes.

King Hassan said in an interview with the Times of London at the weekend that Morocco was committed to becoming a member of the 12-nation community. "It is with Europe that we see our future," he said.

Goria launches efforts to form Italian government

ROME (R) — Prime Minister-designate Giovanni Goria began work on Tuesday on forming a government and commentators predicted the result could be a short-term "truce" cabinet to allow more time to resolve Italy's protracted political crisis.

Mr. Goria, the outgoing treasury minister and a Christian Democrat, was chosen Monday night in a surprise move by President Francesco Cossiga to overcome what a presidential statement described as a "situation of grave difficulties."

Mr. Goria, set to become Italy's youngest prime minister at 43 if he succeeds in his task, met Christian Democrat leaders on Tuesday and said afterwards that he would begin formal consultations with other parties on Wednesday.

His government would be Italy's 47th since the end of World War II.

Mr. Goria said he wanted a solution as soon as possible but refused to say what sort of majority he would seek. "That would be putting the cart before the horse," he told reporters.

Italy has been without a majority government since a five-party coalition led by Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi collapsed in March, prompting early elections in June which failed to resolve the crisis.

Abdul Meguid continues Vienna talks

VIENNA (AP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid on Tuesday held talks with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and Chancellor Franz Vranitzky on the second day of an official visit. A chancellery spokesman quoted Mr. Abdul Meguid as telling Mr. Vranitzky that the Ezzedeen Liberation Organisation should appoint its own representatives to a Middle East peace conference. Elaborating on what he told his Austrian counterpart Alois Mock Monday, however, Mr. Abdul Meguid added that the PLO delegation should be part of Jordan's delegation. "Bilateral negotiations should be possible within the framework of an international Middle East conference, the chancellery spokesman quoted Mr. Abdul Meguid as saying. Expressing Egypt's concern regarding the nearly seven-year-old Gulf war, the visiting minister said an Iranian victory could have wide-reaching consequences for the Arab World. He said Iran could use religion to exert control over the other states in the region. Mr. Abdul Meguid told both Mr. Vranitzky and Dr. Waldheim about Egypt's economic difficulties resulting from falling oil prices and tourism.

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U.S. navy may start Gulf escort duty next week

Weinberger: U.S. may fire first at Silk worms

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has given notice it will attack Iranian Silk worm missile sites if Iran shows intent to use the weapons against Kuwait oil tankers, soon to be under U.S. naval protection.

"The Silk worm is a weapon capable of causing considerable damage," Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger said Monday. "It is important that everyone understand that we would not have to wait until it actually hit us."

Mr. Weinberger said in an interview with a newspaper chain that U.S. warships and aircraft will begin escorting the first of 11 Kuwaiti tankers to carry U.S. flags through the Gulf "imminently," indicating the first escort could come as early as next week.

Diplomats in Kuwait said the first American flag would be placed on a tanker next Monday or Tuesday and the protection would begin immediately.

The United States has charged Iran is preparing to mount the Chinese-built Silk worm anti-ship missiles, capable of carrying 1,000-pound (453-kg) warheads, along the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf.

Mr. Weinberger said the United States would not launch what he called a pre-emptive strike against the missiles, but was prepared to attack them if Iran showed hostile intent, such as launching a missile towards U.S. ships.

Asked if the United States would shoot before it was shot, he replied: "Under certain circumstances, that is quite correct. Nobody is talking about a pre-emptive strike. We are talking about responding to hostile intent," added Mr. Weinberger, who said Iran had not yet launched the missiles on mobile launchers but could do so within

hours. In the Gulf Monday, Iran attacked a French merchant ship and Iraq said its planes attacked a large naval target — Baghdad's usual term for a tanker or merchant ship.

Diplomats in Kuwait said the first ship to sail under a U.S. flag would be the 401,362-tonne Bridgeport, a huge supertanker unit recently called Al Rekkah and now at anchor just outside the Gulf.

The diplomats said it would enter the waterway protected by American warships — a number of which have gathered in the Gulf and the Arabian Sea to the south — after the refueling.

Another Kuwaiti tanker, the 43,604-tonne Gas Al Minagish, renamed the Gas Bridgeport, was on its way to join the Bridgeport from the Mediterranean. The other nine ships involved in the scheme would be refueled over the next two months.

The start of the operation next week will bring to a climax weeks of debate, within and outside the United States, on whether the Reagan administration should proceed with plans to defend Kuwait's tankers from attack by Iran.

"We don't have a precise date for it," Mr. Weinberger said of the tanker escort service. "The formalities that are required for refueling haven't quite been completed. But when they are completed and there is a Kuwaiti tanker in position to be escorted, we will do that. We will be doing it imminently."

The defence secretary also confirmed previous statements by

Pentagon officials that the battleship USS Missouri and several escorts will soon leave California for the northern Indian Ocean. The Missouri, protected by 12-inch (30-cm) armour and armed with long-range cruise missiles and heavy guns, could retaliate if Iran attacked U.S. ships.

"The battleship Missouri will be in the Indian Ocean before long," Mr. Weinberger said.

U.S. House backs Gulf ceasefire

Meanwhile the U.S. House of Representatives, which last week passed legislation seeking a 90-day delay in putting U.S. flags on Kuwaiti tankers, Monday called for a ceasefire between warring Iran and Iraq.

The resolution, which does not carry the force of law but reflects concern among congressmen over the long war in the Gulf, was approved by a voice vote.

The measure now goes to the Senate, where some Republican supporters of President Reagan and Democrats also are worried about the U.S. policy of putting American flags on 11 Kuwaiti vessels and protecting them with U.S. warships in the Gulf.

Critics have said the refueling could drag the United States into the war, now in its seventh year. But they admit they can not stop the operation.

"There may be little we can do to bring this war to an end," said congressman Steven Solarz, a Democratic member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, during brief debate Monday. "But we can speak out."

He said an Iranian victory in the war would be "a severe blow to Western interests in the region." A ceasefire resolution, backed by the United States, is pending in the United Nations Security Council.

Iran seeks to boost air force strength

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran is making a major effort to revive its air power to counter a U.S. military buildup in the Gulf and Iraqi attacks on its oil lifeline, aviation sources in the region said Tuesday.

The sources said Iran had earmarked at least \$500 million to update technical systems on its 80 serviceable F-4 and F-5 American-made jets and make up to 40 more planes airworthy.

Iran wanted to increase the number of warplanes along the Gulf coast to help deter any attacks and to protect its oil shipping lanes, the sources said.

The sources said Iran was also trying to boost its aircraft missile armoury, depleted by age and attacks on Gulf shipping.

"Iranian representatives have approached firms in Asia and Europe to achieve their aims and in this business there is never a lack of interest in such deals," one source said.

The sources said Iran, emboldened by its arms-for-hostages deal with the Reagan administration, had even approached firms linked closely with major U.S. military suppliers.

Iran's air force, largely equipped with U.S. jets and arms supplied before the Shah was toppled in 1979, has been forced by lack of spares and weapons to play only a peripheral role in the seven-year war with Iraq.

The sources said updated refurbished F-4s and F-5s would still be no match for the sophisticated F-14 Tomcat interceptors flown from at least one U.S. aircraft carrier stationed just outside the Gulf.

But they could hold their own with most of the Soviet and French planes flown by the Iraqi Air Force, the sources added. The Iraqis, with some 500 serviceable planes, have enjoyed air superiority for most of the war.

The sources believed Iran planned to deploy at least 30 fighters near its main naval base at Bandar Abbas on the Strait of Hormuz, the mouth of the Gulf and conduit for about one sixth of the non-Communist world's oil imports.

Other locations for air reinforcement were Lavan Island, just off the mainland in the central Gulf, and Bushehr in the north, near Iran's main Kharg Island export terminal.

The sources said more jets at Lavan and Bushehr would enable Iran to provide substantial air cover for its tanker fleet shuttling oil from the Gulf to the southern Gulf.

Kharg and the shuttle fleet have been mauled by Iraqi jets in hundreds of attacks over the past three years since the war spilled over into the Gulf as Baghdad sought to choke off Iran's oil export revenue.

Tehran has retaliated with strikes against shipping of Iraq's Arab backers.

Washington concerned over Israeli treatment of Arab, black visitors

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has expressed concern about the treatment of some American tourists in Israel and said the issue had been raised strongly with Israeli officials.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman refused to say, however, whether Washington was considering issuing a travel advisory for that country.

He said that since the start of the summer tourist season the department had received a number of complaints from Palestinian-Americans about their treatment by Israeli officials.

In the past, complaints have also come from some black American tourists, he said.

"We have raised the issue with the government of Israel and

have followed up individual complaints on a case-by-case basis, stressing that the United States believes strongly that all American citizens are entitled to equal treatment under the laws of foreign countries," Mr. Redman said.

"We oppose any discrimination against our citizens on the basis of race, religion or ethnic background," he added.

Mr. Redman said he could not immediately say how many complaints were raised or how the number compared with previous years.

He said the issue has been raised a number of times in recent weeks by U.S. officials in Israel.

The New York Times, quoting Western diplomats, reported that on more than two dozen occa-

sions Israeli officials confiscated the American passports of visitors to guarantee that the tourists do not stay very long.

It also said the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem and the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv advised the State Department three weeks ago to issue a travel advisory warning Arab-Americans and black Americans that they might be turned away from Israel or asked to post bonds on their arrival there.

The Washington-based American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has accused Israel of subjecting U.S. citizens of Arab origin to harassment or forcing them to pay unreasonably high bonds when they try to enter Israel to visit relatives.

Kuwaiti navy defuses mine in territorial waters

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti navy has lifted and defused a 110-kilogram mine found in its territorial waters, Al Anbaa newspaper reported Tuesday.

It published several photographs of the mine, which diplomats said appeared to be one of 10 to 12 found recently with the help of U.S. naval experts in and around the channel leading to Kuwait's main oil export port of Al Ahmadi.

Al Anbaa said its correspondents accompanied a recent mine-clearing operation but did not say when or where it took place.

The mine was found shortly before Washington planned to refuel 11 Kuwaiti tankers and give them naval escorts to deter Iranian attacks on the northern emirate's oil lifeline.

Kuwait has sought foreign help

to identify and clear mines, which boomed four merchant tankers in May and June, including a Soviet tanker leased to the emirate.

Gulf-based shipping sources blame the mines on Iran, which has singled out Kuwaiti-linked vessels for attack in response to the emirate's support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

Kuwaiti Naval Commander Habib Al Mil, quoted by the daily, said the mines found in Kuwaiti waters were anchored to the seabed and moved with the current either on or just below the surface. Diplomats say they are an old Soviet type.

Diplomats say Kuwait is considering Saudi Arabian, Egyptian and U.S. help to remove the remaining nine to 11 mines.

Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah Monday met a Saudi naval delegation to

discuss cooperation in mine clearing, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

Since the four mine blasts, oil tankers have been avoiding the Al Ahmadi channel and sailing with less than full cargoes in more shallow water around it, shipping sources say.

Mil said Kuwaiti naval units were guarding entrances to territorial waters and inspecting ships entering them.

Diplomats say the mines could have been laid by Iranian commercial or Revolutionary Guard vessels.

Kuwait has ordered Dutch minehunters to boost its own mine-clearing capability and the Dutch government said last week it would not oppose the sale.

The Soviet Union, with three minesweepers in the Gulf area, has also offered help.

Habre takes seat of honour at Bastille Day parade

PARIS (R) — Once shunned as an outlaw and an enemy of France, Chadian President Hissene Habre took the seat of honour Tuesday at the annual Bastille Day military parade in Paris.

The wily desert warrior sat to the right of President Francois Mitterrand on the reviewing stand as the French Armed Forces showed off their hardware on the Champs Elysees Avenue.

Mr. Habre, a former guerrilla chieftain who fought against French troops in the 1970s, is making his first visit to France since his ragged fighters bumbled the Soviet-supplied army of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in northern Chad.

France trained and equipped Mr. Habre's army as well as providing air cover, but French troops took no part in the lightning attacks of January and March which drove the Libyans from most of their bases in the former French colony.

The hardware which helped the victory over the Libyans — French warplanes and Milan anti-tank missiles — featured prominently in the parade, which this year included more than 6,000 people, 600 vehicles and 100 aircraft.

"We are paying homage to a

friendly head of state," said Defence Minister Andre Girard in an interview with L'Express magazine.

"He is also a symbol of a great success: The Chadians reconquered their territory with our help but without a single French fatality."

"And all this was done without the conflict appearing to be a battle between a rich country and a Third World nation."

But diplomats say Mr. Girard's words mask a continuing distrust of Mr. Habre by some French officials dating from the 1970s when he rebelled against the French-backed government of then Chadian leader Ngarta Tomhalaye.

Mr. Habre hit the headlines when he kidnapped French archaeologist Françoise Claustre in 1974. She was released almost three years later after France parachuted a ransom of 10 million francs (\$1.5 million).

In 1975 Habre's men also tortured to death a French mediator, Major Pierre Galopin, whose death is still remembered by the army.

Mr. Habre, recognised as one of Africa's most talented guerrilla chiefs, marched into the capital N'Djamena in 1982 at the end of

his successful revolt.

France, after casting around in vain for another leader to reunify the country after decades of civil war, gave its blessing to his plan to reconquer the north from Libya and its local allies.

France and the United States supplied Mr. Habre with the weapons he needed, but he has frequently complained of receiving only the absolute minimum and at the last minute.

His visit to France follows a trip last month to Washington — a rare reversal of the usual itinerary followed by a head of state from French-speaking Africa.

Mr. Habre has vowed to regain control of a disputed border region occupied by Libyan troops but says he is ready to seek a peaceful end to the long-running conflict.

"The dangers that threaten our country remain tenacious," Mr. Habre said Monday night at a dinner hosted by French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

"One way or another, and preferably by peaceful means, it is essential that Chad recovers the totality of its territory within the frontiers it had at independence,"

Turkey to appoint top security official for troubled south east

ANKARA (R) — A top official will coordinate security in south eastern Turkey under a decree published Tuesday aimed at dealing with a Kurdish insurgency that has claimed at least 60 civilian lives in the last month.

The emergency rule district governor, yet to be named, will cover eight of Turkey's 67 provinces from next Sunday when martial law ends in four of them, the only areas still clamped under the measure.

Emergency rule, giving civilian authorities wide law and order powers, will cover all eight provinces.

The decree said the official would control all security forces in the region and have authority to order the temporary or permanent closure or merger of villages.

The decision follows an upsurge in activity by autonomy-seeking guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers Party, accused of killing at least 60 civilians in the last month.

Civilians, especially village guards, headmen and their families, have become main targets for rebels in an apparent campaign to loosen links between central government and Kurdish areas.

Turkey denies the existence of its estimated eight million Kurds as a separate ethnic group.

'Moscow, Peking support U.N. arms embargo if Iran rejects ceasefire'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union and China have quietly informed the U.S. government they support in principle an arms embargo against Iran if it refuses to agree to a ceasefire with Iraq, officials have said.

The U.N. Security Council is expected to order the ceasefire later this week, but Iran has said it is determined to keep fighting until Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is forced out.

The plan calls for the arms boycott to be imposed by the 15-member council within 30 to 45 days of adopting the ceasefire resolution. The support of the Soviet Union and China is considered essential, since either one could block an embargo with a veto.

Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, went to Moscow and Pek-

ing last week to seek their backing. Describing his mission as more successful than anticipated, two U.S. officials said the Soviets and China had acknowledged the need for an arms embargo if the ceasefire were ignored.

But the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, cautioned that the Soviets and Chinese had not given Gen. Walters an unshakable pledge to vote with the United States for the boycott.

"They came out very supportive," one of the officials said. "The Soviets had been leaning toward an embargo for several weeks. China, which the White House rates as Iran's principal arms supplier, was noncommittal until Gen. Walters' visit."

"They both support an embargo in principle, though they left a

little edge (did not commit fully)," the other U.S. official said. As permanent council members, either country has the power to veto the boycott by exercising its veto power. Gaining their support — at least in principle — is considered a major achievement in the U.S. diplomatic effort to end the Gulf war that has been raging since September 1980.

White House strategy calls for the council first to adopt a ceasefire resolution calling for negotiations and then enforcing it with an arms embargo if either side balks.

Secretary of State George Shultz is expected to participate in the discussion of the ceasefire resolution when the council takes it up later this week. The purpose is to underscore the importance the administration attaches to U.N. efforts to end the war.

TV & RADIO

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Review of programmes
16:55 Cartoons and Children's programmes
17:30 Small Wonder
18:00 St. Elsewhere Hospital
18:30 Arabic series
19:20 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Cultural programme
22:20 News in Arabic
23:20 Wrestling cont.

PROGRAMME TWO

19:50 Cinq filles a Paris
19:55 News in French
19:55 A Jour hien Jordanie
19:55 News in Hebrew
20:00 Sports Magazine
20:05 News in Arabic
20:30 Three's Crowd
21:10 The Silk Road
22:00 News in English
22:20 The Wheel

RADIO JORDAN

655 KHz. AM & 90 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW
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07:00 Light Music
07:20 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Cont.
11:00 Men from the Ministry
11:30 Songs from Movies
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Readings
12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Piano Magic
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News in Summary
16:05 News in Summary
16:50 Old Favourites
17:00 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Now Music
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

21:05 Evening Show Cont.
21:25 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Continued
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Continued
23:27 News Headlines
23:40 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1223 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Greeting a Homage in Felters 07:45 Soccer cont. 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:20 24 Hour News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 Classical Record Review 11:30 Brain of Britain 1987 12:00 World News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News Look Ahead 12:45 Happy Talk 13:00 News Summary 13:05 30 Trivia Test Match 14:00 World News 14:05 News About Britain 14:15 Greeting a Homage in Felters 14:25 A Letter from Wales 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio Newswelt 15:15 Masterpiece in Miniature 15:25 The Farming World 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World News 16:05 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Development 17:00 News Summary 17:05 Outlook 17:45 Report on Religion 18:00 Radio Newswelt 18:15 Keep to the Path 18:30 Radio Active 19:00 World News 19:05 Commentary 19:15 Countdown 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News 20:05 A Letter from Wales 20:15 From Cradle to Grave 20:40 Book Choice 20:50 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1220 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 12570 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 12:00 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 13:00 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 14:00 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 15:00 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning 24:00 News 24:10 Newsline 24:30 VOA Morning 25:00 News 25:10 Newsline 25:30 VOA Morning 26:00 News 26:10 Newsline 26:30 VOA Morning 27:00 News 27:10 Newsline 27:30 VOA Morning 28:00 News 28:10 Newsline 28:30 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Many obstacles remain for holding int'l peace conference — U.S. expert

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A former U.S. official has warned that prospects for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East this year, or in the near future, are meager if not even non-existent.

Mr. William Quandt, who served as head of the Middle East Office at the National Security Council (NSC) under President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981), argued that neither the international nor the regional conditions were conducive for the convening of such a conference. He said that there was now no consensus among the parties involved on a number of key procedural and substantive issues.

Mr. Quandt, who is also a prominent expert of the Middle East at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., was speaking at a seminar co-sponsored by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the World Affairs Council at the ATF headquarters here on Monday.

Even if such a conference convenes, under the prevailing conditions, Mr. Quandt cautioned, "it is not clear to me that the conference can go very far before it collapses."

Mr. Quandt's pessimistic assessment contrasted with statements made by a number of political leaders which indicated that the regional and international support has strengthened the chances for the holding of the international conference in the foreseeable future, if not this year.

But, Mr. Quandt, who based his conclusion on a historical comparison between the conditions in 1977, when similar efforts to convene an international conference were underway, and 1987, he argued strongly that the regional and international conditions in 1977 were by far more propitious for holding such a meeting than the prevailing situation and political equations a decade later.

In Mr. Quandt's view, the internal Israeli and Arab divisions and the fundamental differences between the Soviet Union and the United States over conceptual and procedural issues would impede the convening of the international peace conference.

Mr. Quandt, who visited Tel Aviv last week and conferred with Israeli officials, expressed the opinion that the differences between the two partners in the ruling Israeli coalition government "are deep and fundamental over the convening of an international conference."

While the Labour Party has endorsed the principle of holding an international peace conference "as a cover for direct Israeli-Arab talks," leaders of the Likud Party have categorically rejected the idea, dubbing it a "venue for increasing the Soviet influence in the region."

According to Mr. Quandt, the party interested in the conference in Israel "is still a minority without a strategy to break out from being a minority."

Some analysts believe that if the Labour Party managed to secure a majority in a new election, should the coalition break apart, current Foreign Minister Shimon Peres could then guaran-

tee strong support for the idea. But, Mr. Quandt disagreed: "There is no guarantee whatsoever that there will be a different government (if there were elections). There is no particular reason to think that the fundamental stalemate in Israel can be overcome anytime in the near future."

Mr. Quandt said that current strained relations between the major Arab parties, which are supposed to participate in the conference, was a serious impediment to the convening or the success of the conference. He was referring to the strained relations between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syria, Jordan and Egypt, as well as the Syrian-Egyptian estrangement.

The lack of a unified Arab negotiating position, was, in Mr. Quandt's analysis, one of the major stumbling blocks which "prevented any progress towards a Geneva conference in the seventies."

On the international level, Mr. Quandt said that both superpowers had different concepts of the proposed conference. The Americans still cling to the 1973 style Geneva conference, while the Soviets are thinking in terms of a plenipotentiary conference in which the plenum would have a more effective role.

He also noted that regional disputes have become more interrelated and the importance of solutions have increasingly grown within the context of the Soviet-American relations and interests.

Another serious obstacle cited by Mr. Quandt was the inability of the current American administration to play an effective role in the region partly due to domestic constraints, and partly due to the decline in American credibility in the region following the Iran-contra affair.

Despite his pessimism, however, Mr. Quandt conceded that there have been important developments, over the past few years, which provides for "a restrained optimism" over peace prospects in the area.

He elaborated on these positive developments. First, he said that the initiative was made by the parties concerned for a peace conference, and not by external powers.

Furthermore, the regional parties come to a degree of common understanding over some conceptual issues. There is also some understanding about procedural issues at least between the U.S., Israel, Egypt, Jordan and "half of the Israeli government."

Secondly, there seemed to be less reluctance to include the Soviets in Washington, where talking about this issue "is no longer illegitimate," Mr. Quandt observed.

Thirdly, the parties involved have been able to articulate important concepts which can actually contribute to solving some of the most important procedural and substantive obstacles. These concepts were contained in the Feb. 11 agreement of 1985 between Jordan and the PLO.

According to Mr. Quandt, the concept of forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation provided a framework for resolving the issue of Palestinian representation. While the concept of a Palestinian-Jordanian confeder-

ation could provide a compromise solution in which both the Israeli and the American opposition to a Palestinian state, and the Palestinian demand for exercising self-determination, could be reconciled.

The Feb. 11 accord was officially abrogated by the PLO last April/Mr. Quandt, however, did not address the implications of the Palestinian decision. He also did not expound on the current PLO demand to participate on equal footing with the other parties in the conference.

Fourth, there is a growing awareness among most of the parties concerned that peace negotiations would not necessarily lead to an immediate agreement "all in one step." There is also an understanding that the final agreement could be a number of agreements worked out over a long period of time.

Mr. Quandt said that those four developments were positive, but maintained that the obstacles still outweighed the progress that has been made, and that it was most unlikely that the conference would be convened this year.

Throughout his lecture, the American expert, who has written a number of books on American policy in the Middle East, adhered to the opinion that the Egyptian-Israeli accord has paved the way for progress in peace efforts, as far as affecting attitudes towards peace negotiations.

Mr. Quandt, however, referred to the positions of the parties which participated in the Camp David talks only in the context of his historical comparison between 1977 and 1987.

In his historical comparison, Mr. Quandt noted that there are many similarities between the political conditions which prevailed in 1977 and the situation today, especially as far as the differences over procedural and substantive issues are concerned.

He said that, like 1977, there is now an apparent agreement among the parties concerned on the framework of the peace negotiations. But as in 1977, an agreement between the two superpowers is needed which can direct the efforts of the regional parties concerned.

The differences over the issues of Palestinian representation and the role invested in such a conference had also dominated the political arguments then as strongly as they do today, he observed.

But, in Mr. Quandt's view, the issue of Palestinian representation was resolved when the PLO agreed to name delegates to a unified Arab delegation. An important issue which was not resolved then and has not been resolved now was the role of such a conference and how negotiations were going to be conducted.

While some parties, and particularly Israel, insisted on bilateral negotiations through geographic working committees, others sought a comprehensive settlement which would cover all the bilateral disputes.

According to the Syrian view, any Arab country would have the right to veto any bilateral agreement if it was not part of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. "This in my view was the major obstacle," he said.

Expatriates discuss area's conflicts, occupied lands

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The welfare of the Palestinian population in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and prospects of convening the proposed international peace conference, were prominent topics during discussions Tuesday, the second day of the Third Jordanian Expatriates' Congress.

Delivering a working paper entitled "Jordan's Foreign Policy, Issues and Stands," Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Masri pointed out that Jordan's adamant demand for PLO participation in the proposed conference as the sole representative of the Palestinians should compensate for the error of the U.N. Resolution 242 in failing to recognise Palestinian problem as more than a refugee question and giving Israel the powerful advantage of deciding where to start the negotiations.

Touching on inter-Arab conflict, Mr. Masri pointed out that without Arab solidarity, which he described as a prerequisite to any proposed peaceful settlement in the Middle East, not only would it be impossible to reach a united decision concerning Middle East problems but it would also threaten each country's economic and social development.

Mr. Masri discussed Jordan's efforts to remove Arab differences and called for an Arab summit conference to face the common hardships and difficulties.

The foreign minister concentrated on the Iran-Iraq war which he described as "an aggressive war by Iran aimed at expansion and the spreading of Iran's Islamic revolution." He further warned that "the collapse of Iraq will open the gates of the region to Iran's greed."

Following Mr. Masri's speech, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin presented a paper on the occupied Arab ter-

ritories and Jordan's role in supporting the Palestinians steadfastness. He discussed the economic recession in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which is a direct result of the hurdles placed by the Israelis in front of the Palestinian residents and companies.

He said that this Israeli policy aims at removing any economic self-reliance which West Bankers might attain by trying to integrate the land and resources into Israel's own economy.

Mr. Dudin also discussed in detail the Jordanian-sponsored development plan for the Arab territory. This discussion comes as the first of its kind in an expatriates conference.

The minister pointed out that special assistance is required for the continuing steadfastness of the Palestinian people in Israeli-occupied territories. This assistance should be in the form of social and economic projects which would support the general conditions in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Jordanian-sponsored plan, with a spending capacity of JD 362 million between 1986-1990, will cover several areas of need such as housing, education, agriculture, health services, industry and social development.

Earlier, on Monday, the participants at the conference discussed the achievements of the Second Expatriates' Congress and Jordan's efforts to provide for the need of those Jordanians who live and work abroad.

The Jordanian government has been able to, since the Second Expatriates' Congress, to implement the resolutions adopted by the earlier congress. These resolutions cover areas of dual nationality, social insurance, mandatory military service, cooperative housing schemes, family registration book, passports, higher education, primary education, youth, incentives and investment services and transportation services.

Work begins on health centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzah laid the cornerstone Tuesday for two health centres at Ashrafieh and Hashemi districts of Amman which cost approximately JD 240,000.

Each of the two centres will include clinics to offer mother and child care, and X-ray and laboratory services.

These first aid and emergency centres will be open for operations 24 hours a day and will reduce the pressure at Al Bashir Hospital, according to a ministry spokesman.

Work should be completed by the middle of 1988.

Secondary stage students required to buy textbooks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Students of the secondary stage at government schools will now be required to buy their textbooks from bookshops but students of the preparatory and elementary stages will continue to receive textbooks from the Ministry of Education free of charge, according to Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi.

A Ministry of Education statement said that it has already contacted parties involved in the book printing and selling operations to make the arrangements.

Previously, the ministry provided all books to government schools in the country free of

charge and to all stages. According to the statement, the new measure will be put into force as of the coming 1987-1988 scholastic year.

Meanwhile, the ministry's director of examinations, Mr. Ahmad Taqi, said that his department is trying to speed up the process for obtaining results of the tawjihi examinations for both banks of Jordan.

The examinations were taken by 64,500 students last month and ministry sources said that the preliminary results were good and above the average of last year. The final results will be made known early next month.

Dudin details economic effects of Israeli steps on Palestinians

Jordan to pump JD 362m into occupied lands

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin presented to the Third Jordanian Expatriates Conference Tuesday a working paper on the conditions of the Israeli-occupied Arab lands and Jordan's role in supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people there. The paper included details about a Jordanian-sponsored development plan for the occupied Arab territories.



Marwan Dudin

The paper, the first of its kind to be presented to an expatriates conference, details the measures Israel has taken to hinder the development of the Arab economy in the occupied areas.

"The Arab people under Israeli rule are in need of support and assistance to resist Israel's measures," the minister said. "This assistance can best be offered through social and economic projects that would enable the Arab population to remain steadfast in their homeland."

The Jordanian-sponsored plan, Mr. Dudin noted, envisages spending a total of JD 362 million between 1986-1990 on infrastructure projects in the areas of health, economic, industrial, agricultural, educational, and social services, at the rate of JD 72 million annually.

"What Jordan wants," he said, "is to maintain the Arab identity of the occupied land, develop its human resources, create jobs for workers, and enhance the Arab population's ability to hold on to their land and support themselves through their own means without relying on Israel's economy."

The minister said a special committee has been set up to supervise the plan in the occupied territories and to ensure sufficient funds are available for each project.

He also noted that projects in the fields of health, education, agriculture, social services, electricity, water, roads and the like, will be fairly distributed to different areas of the occupied territories. The areas are divided into nine zones: Jerusalem, Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm and Qalqilya, Ramallah, Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron and the Gaza Strip.

The committee has begun implementing the projects and has raised by 50 per cent the salaries of teachers at government schools, allocating JD 3.9 million

annually for this purpose, Mr. Dudin added.

In his working paper, Mr. Dudin presented a general review of the present situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip occupied by Israel since 1967.

He also referred to Israel's objectives and current practices which, he said, are adversely affecting the Arab population's economic, industrial, agricultural and trade sectors. Israel's measures, the minister noted, are also designed to seize Arab water resources, confiscate Arab-owned land and destroy the Arab economy.

According to the minister, the Israelis have so far confiscated 53 per cent of the total land of the West Bank, including Jerusalem and 30 per cent of lands in the Gaza Strip. As a result, between 1968 and 1985 235,500 Arabs have been forced to leave their homeland, in addition to 400,000 forced to leave during the 1967 war itself, Mr. Dudin noted.

He said that Israel has flooded occupied territories' markets with Israeli-made goods and products and continues to block Arab industrial and agricultural products from reaching Israeli markets, with the result that Israel has sold nearly \$600 million worth of goods to the Arab inhabitants up to 1985.

Mr. Dudin said Israel continues to impose heavy taxes on the Arabs, takes measures designed to weaken the Arab economy and tries to gather the largest possible amounts of hard currency from the occupied Arab regions.

Mr. Dudin dwelt in some detail upon the industrial, agricultural, trade and labour force sectors in the occupied territories.

He said that Arab-owned industry under Israeli rule cannot compete with the Israeli industry because of restrictions, heavy taxes, and repressive measures imposed on the Arab owners and workers by the authorities.

The Arabs have to import their raw materials from Israel at high cost and cannot find sufficient markets for their industrial products, the minister noted.

In view of the situation, Mr. Dudin said the Jordanian government has decided to allow the West Bank industrial products to cross into the East Bank to be marketed here and in other Arab countries, provided that raw materials are supplied through the East Bank and the industries are licensed by the Jordanian authorities.

Mr. Dudin said that the agricultural sector in the occupied territories is being continually weakened by the Israeli measures. No Arab agricultural products are allowed into Israeli markets, insufficient water is pumped to farm land, and many of the productive lands are being confiscated by the Israeli authorities, the minister pointed out.

These measures have dealt a severe blow to the agricultural sector, the minister noted.

To thwart these measures Jordan has opened the door for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip farmers to market their products in the East Bank and the Arab countries. These crops, which he said, are being shipped across the Jordan River bridges, include various fruits and vegetables grown by Arab people on Arab-owned land.

Referring to the Arab territory's trade sector, the minister said that the Israelis have been intent on dominating the Arab markets and depriving the Arabs of the right to market their own goods. Also, the absence of Arab banking facilities has damaged the Arab territories' trade sector, the minister added.

Mr. Dudin told the meeting that the total number of Arab labourers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip stood at 240,000 in 1985, mostly employed as construction workers inside Israel. The shrinking land-ownership of Arabs due to Israeli confiscation has created a greater pool of labourers who are unable to find work.

The minister said that workers are forced to work long hours for low wages of which 20 per cent is deducted for social security from which they never benefit.

Mr. Dudin noted that the Arab inhabitants have over the past 20 years received help from the Jordanian government and expatriates living and working in different Arab countries. He said that a total of JD 470 million have been pumped into the occupied territory from the expatriates during these years and another JD 137.5 million has been funnelled to the occupied territories from the Arab countries between 1979 and 1985. This is in addition to allocations made by Kuwait and other Arab countries, mostly channelled through the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

Since 1967, the minister noted, Jordan has never stopped extending assistance to the Arab people of Palestine. Between 1967 and 1986, the Jordanian government has pumped JD 125 million into the West Bank in the form of salaries and pensions, and funds for development projects, the minister added.

Mr. Dudin said that the Jordanian government will continue to extend help to the Arab population and it will strive to ensure that the largest possible section of the Arab population will benefit from this assistance.

Masri reaffirms Jordan's rejection of separate talks

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Masri said the Kingdom had been very successful in Europe and the Soviet Union. He cited the European Community's (EC) endorsement of the conference idea in February this year and the Franco-Soviet call, made during a July 1986 visit to Moscow by French President Francois Mitterrand, on the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to set up a preparatory committee to pave the way for convening of such a forum.

The main hurdles blocking the path towards the called-for conference, Mr. Masri said, were Israel's refusal to recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and "the absence of a clear American policy towards the Middle East."

Mr. Masri also reviewed inter-Arab relations and the "painful truth" about the state of Arab solidarity. He outlined the various aspects and different factors involving inter-Arab differences which caused "this unhealthy state of affairs."

Leaving aside as "outside influences" the Iran-Iraq war and Israel's aggression on Arab territories, Mr. Masri reviewed the internal problems within and among various Arab states such as the 12-year-old Lebanese civil war, Iraqi-Syrian differences, the Libyan-Tunisian rift and the Moroccan-Polish conflict over Western Sahara.

Internal economic problems, Mr. Masri said, are invisible source of destruction which are as

threatening as political and war problems. Economic recession, accumulation of debts and a country's inability to deal with social problems are all different faces of a large economic problem which will cause the country in question to focus on immediately visible problems rather than concentrating on efforts to tackle the root cause or the concept of the issue at stake, he said.

Mr. Masri briefed the conference on Jordan's efforts to settle inter-Arab differences and called for an urgent Arab summit to "confront common hardships and difficulties facing the Arab World."

Iraqi jets pound Iranian base

(Continued from page 1)

The terminal itself sustained unspecified damage in the attack, staged in an apparent attempt to heat up the Gulf tanker war ahead of the reflagging operation, said the executives.

The first of 11 reflagged Kuwaiti tankers is now expected to sail into northern Gulf under heavy American air and naval escort early next week.

The 401,382-tonne Al Rekkah, renamed Bridgeton, is standing just outside the Strait of Hormuz and is expected to fly the U.S. flag from next Monday or Tuesday.

Gulf salvage operators, who have witnessed Iran's tactics at close quarters, believe Iraq will find it almost impossible to halt strikes by the highly manoeuvre-

able launches. So far, Revolutionary Guard crews have attacked ships with machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades, sometimes sparking fires but rarely causing severe damage to huge tankers.

Some salvage operators doubt whether even the most sophisticated U.S. military hardware could ward off a suicide attack by Iranian launches packed with high explosives.

As final preparations for the escort plan were made in Washington, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Monday U.S. forces were ready to move against another major Iranian threat to shipping, Chinese-designed "Silkworm" missiles (See page 2).

Scout panel ends with recommendations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Second National Conference on Scout Movement and Girlguides ended in Amman Tuesday with participants issuing recommendations aimed at promoting their movement.

A final statement issued at the closing session recommended that a permanent headquarters for the scout society be found and that regulations should be issued organising the training and the activities programmes of the scouts and girlguides.

Community development should be a priority for the movement, the statement said. Also, additional sources of finance should be actively sought.

The participants called for the inclusion of handicapped persons in scout activities and recommended that income-generating projects should be encouraged.

They said that a general conference for the scouts and girlguides should be held every two years. They also recommended that the Scouts conduct tours of archaeological, historical and religious sites in the Kingdom.

The participants sent greetings to the scouts and girlguides movements in the occupied Arab territories and praised their steadfastness in the face of Israel's measures.

In the morning session, the conference reviewed a working

paper by the director of morale guidance in the Armed Forces about the Great Arab Revolt in which he discussed the general conditions in the Arab region on the eve of the Revolt which was led by Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali of Mecca and its objectives.

The conference, which was opened on Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, discussed several other papers dealing with the scout movement's activities.

The three-day conference was attended by 215 members of scouts and girlguides and officials from the ministries of youth and of culture, tourism, and antiquities.

Hmoud urges farmers to repay loans

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud Tuesday urged Jordanian farmers who benefited from a good harvest this year to pay back their loans to the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) so that the money can be loaned to farmers who suffered a poor harvest.

The minister said that the ACC will be ready to look into requests by farmers whose lands did not yield good crops this year for rescheduling their loans or offering them new loans to tide them over until the next season.

At the end of 1985, the ACC rescheduled loans offered to farmers, so that they could pay back the loans over five years.

year's harvest was generally good, especially the cereal, vegetable and olive crops. Most farmers should be able to pay back part of the loans given them by the ACC, he noted.

A special team conducting a comprehensive review of loans given to farmers in Jordan will submit its report to the government by the middle of next month. The government will then decide on a policy with regard to granting loans for agricultural projects, the minister noted.

He warned that legal action will be taken against farmers who fail to pay back their loans.

Referring to the work of the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan

(AMPCO) which handles and markets Jordan's products here and abroad, the minister said that the company bought from local farmers more than 10,000 tonnes of potatoes, 35,000 tonnes of tomatoes, and exported more than 14,000 tonnes of various crops mostly produced in the Jordan Valley region.

At present, AMPCO is buying from farmers onions, wheat, barley, chick peas, maize and lentils at subsidised prices, the minister said.

He described the agricultural situation in the country as good and said that the Ministry of Agriculture and its affiliated departments and agencies continue to support the agricultural sector.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Passports office to open in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani has decided to open an office here to issue passports for people in the Madaba district to lessen the pressure on the central Passports Department office in Amman and to save time and trouble for the Madaba district population. The office will open in the second half of this month.

Media head tours Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Jawad Maraqa, director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, has left on a tour of the Gulf region for talks on cooperation between Arab states and Jordan in the field of film production and distribution. The 10-day trip will take Mr. Maraqa to Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Agricultural exports up from last year

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan exported 42,303 tonnes of agricultural crops in the past month against 33,674 tonnes in the same month of last year, according to Ministry of Agriculture statistical bulletin. It also said that the crops like potatoes, melons, peaches, cherries, bananas, lemon, almond and olives are being brought to Jordan from the occupied West Bank.

New police shooting range opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of Public Security Department (PSD) Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali opened Tuesday new target shooting ranges for Jordanian police at Swaqa near Madaba. He heard a briefing on the new premises and the facilities they offer for training, and later watched a target shooting exercise with police officers using hand guns and rifles on mobile and stationary targets.

Computer training course being held

AMMAN (J.T.) — A six-day training course on computer skills for managers is being held at the Jordan Institute of Management/Industrial Development Bank.

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The big 5 and the Gulf

THERE is now a real possibility that a new resolution on ending the Gulf war will receive unanimous support from the Security Council within the coming days. It would call for an immediate ceasefire, a return to international borders and an exchange of prisoners. It would refer in general terms to the need for post-war reconstruction with international assistance and a key clause would ask the U.N. secretary-general to consult with Iraq and Iran on the appointment of a neutral body to investigate responsibility for the conflict and report to the Security Council. This resolution would not however provide for mandatory sanctions on the belligerent which failed to comply either in the form of a ban on oil sales or an arms embargo. There now seems little chance of such a resolution receiving the support of the permanent members of the council.

A large majority of Arabs have always been convinced that the great powers, despite their ritual expressions of dismay at the horrors of war, are keeping it going both because they are happy to see Iran and Iraq exhausting each other and are profiting from the arms trade. The remark attributed to Henry Kissinger, that the ideal outcome of the war would be for both sides to lose, is still widely quoted. Such public cynicism is understandable in the light of Iran and Iraq's sophisticated weapons, has until its latest diplomatic move been making strenuous efforts to ingratiate itself with Iran, while China, the supposed friend of the Arabs, has been providing Iran, very probably in collaboration with Israel, with crucial weapons while attempting to pass the responsibility to North Korea.

However, this does not mean that there has not been a real shift in the powers' attitude to the war. They may still be content for their balance of payments to be improved by arms sales and certainly none wishes to see either Iraq or Iran dominate the region, but the risks of the war are now so great that even the most cold-hearted and calculating government would prefer it to end. The U.S. fears for the consequences to the Arab Gulf states while the Soviet Union is now seriously alarmed at the effect of a militant Iran on its own Muslim minorities. A new factor is that with the recent run down in world oil stocks any sudden cut in Gulf supplies could well cause a new oil crisis of 1973 dimensions.

In fact it is only Israel which has an overriding desire for the war to continue — partly because it can still profit from the arms trade but more because it continues to weaken a potentially formidable Arab adversary. Israel must therefore be concerned with the new stage the war has entered with the U.S. agreement to the refloating of the 11 Kuwaiti ships which was in itself a reaction to a similar Soviet action.

President Reagan's recent offer of an olive branch to President Assad has wider implications than an attempt to secure the release of hostages. Premature optimism would be unwise, but there are several signs of a U.S. trend towards a more balanced Middle East policy which is at least partly a White House reaction against Israel's nefarious role in the Iran-Iraq affair. There are sound arguments against the refloating of Kuwaiti ships, but it is noticeable that President Reagan's leading critics are also the most enthusiastic friends of Israel and that they are concentrating on accusing the Emir of Kuwait of having blackmailed the U.S. into supporting the Arab side in the war.

If the U.S. shift is to make sense it must be coordinated with the USSR. Moscow seems equally aware of this and the superpowers are moving gingerly towards cooperation, while making ritual mutual accusations of malign interference. President Reagan tells Congress his aim is to keep out the Russians while they call for a peace conference in Moscow and the withdrawal of all foreign naval ships from the Gulf which they must know are impractical. More important, President Reagan has strong reasons for getting a Security Council resolution passed by the time the Kuwaiti tankers begin to sail with the U.S. flag. A Security Council resolution based on U.S.-Soviet cooperation will not end the war but is an essential step towards it. Israel could still use its formidable influence in Washington to destroy it, as it destroyed the hopeful U.S.-Soviet agreement on Middle East peace in 1977. But that was before Iran-Iraq — Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Prince addresses expatriates

PRINCE Hassan addressed the opening session of the Jordanian expatriates congress in Amman outlining the various missions undertaken by Jordan on the domestic and pan-Arab fronts. In his address, the Prince reviewed the country's economic and social conditions and pointed to the role which the expatriates can play in developing their home country. Prince Hassan underlined the importance of granting the expatriates the opportunity and the facilities for investing in the Kingdom. This can be done, the Prince said, through various ways and by orienting the expatriates' representatives on the factual economic situation in the country and its current national development plan; and Jordan's continued endeavours to support the steadfastness of the Arab inhabitants in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands. The expatriates have the right to know the circumstances through which this country is passing and its limited means and also its determination to confront challenges in economy, education and social development. Prince Hassan voiced the nation's feelings and views in directing praise to the Jordanian expatriates who he described as ambassadors who strengthen Jordan's ties with other nations; and who, through their investments here, display continued sense of belonging to their homeland. We sincerely hope that the third expatriates congress will yield fruitful results and help promote the development of our country.

Al Dustour: Prince reaffirms Jordan's commitments

PRINCE Hassan told the Third Jordanian expatriates congress on Monday that Jordan will remain faithful to its commitment in supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people under Israeli occupation despite the country's limited economic means. This national commitment reflects Jordan's firm policy and national stand initiated by King Hussein on various occasions voiced Jordan's readiness to give all possible assistance to the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories. As Prince Hassan pointed out Jordan has worked out a five year national development plan for the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the purpose of resisting Israel's expansionist designs and aims. This plan is intended to help lessen the burdens of the Arab population and enable them to resist Israel's arbitrary actions. Jordan's efforts to carry out development plans in the East as well as the West Banks is part of this country's national endeavour on which the expatriates should be oriented. We warmly welcome the expatriates in their home country and hope that their deliberations about political, economic and social issues pertaining to both banks of Jordan will be crowned with success and translated into practice.

Lebanon adrift after Karami murder

By Hugh Pope
Reuters

BEIRUT — Lebanon on July 12 commemorated the murder of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, his killers still at large and the country facing political deadlock and economic crisis.

Ironically, only the security, situation has shown signs of improvement since a bomb exploded aboard Karami's army helicopter on June 1.

Karami, a Sunni Muslim and Syria's main ally in this country, was one of 60 people killed by political violence in Lebanon last month, the lowest toll since March 1983.

But Lebanon's 12-year-old civil conflict remains unresolved, and few commentators agree on where their country is drifting to — a war-weary peace, say some, a new explosion, according to others.

The 40th day memorial of Karami's death was commemorated in his northern home town of Tripoli, with key Muslim and Christian leaders still wide apart.

The Lebanese pound lost one third of its international value in the past six weeks, fuelling inflation and pushing more people below the poverty line, with dealers blaming psychological fears rather than major economic or political factors.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the people have nothing to do with this political game," said Sayyed Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual mentor of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God). "Say what you like, the people want to eat."

Syria, the main powerbroker in Lebanon where it has 25,000 troops, and its Lebanese allies stressed at the commemoration that there could be no political dialogue until Karami's murderers had been uncovered.

They have accused the Christian Lebanese Forces militia of killing Karami and Christian President Amin Gemayel of procrastination in punishing his assassins.

Lebanese leaders including acting Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss, called to Damascus last Wednesday to see Syrian President Hafez Assad came away saying he had stressed the battle would be long, but political.

"There is no Syrian decision to bring down Gemayel, no decision to go back to war, no decision by anyone to change the local map," the independent An Nahar newspaper said in an editorial.

A Syrian-backed Muslim boycott of Gemayel has been in force since January last year, when he refused to endorse a



militia pact negotiated in Damascus that would have given Lebanon's Muslims more power.

Karami's murder prompted Syria to back initiatives for a new Muslim-Christian front under the aegis of former President Suleiman Franjeh and including other moderate Christian leaders.

But diplomats said Syria was slowing the pace of events for reasons of its own, and some political analysts believe the idea may take months to mature.

"Syria has put Lebanon on hold," said a Western ambassador. He said Damascus, now mending fences with the United States, was busy with wider issues like the Iran-Iraq war and a proposed Middle East peace conference.

Syria has also had its hands full to keep up a four-month security drive in West Beirut, where some 7,000 Syrian troops deployed last February.

The Syrians have succeeded in

their major stated objective — to stop clashes between their Lebanese allies — but still face opposition, as shown by three car bombs attacks, the latest near a Syrian military building, and more than 145 dynamite blasts in rubbish heaps.

Kidnappers, believed to be pro-Iranian militants, also undermined Syrian pledges to make west Beirut safe for foreigners with the seizure of U.S. newsman Charles Glass on June 17.

Intense Syrian pressure, including measures restricting the movements of hundreds of Iranian revolutionary guards based in Lebanon, failed to secure Glass's release.

In a clear gesture of defiance of Syria, host to U.S. envoy Vernon Walters only a few days ago, a senior Hizbollah official said on July 12 Glass's kidnapping was "a small matter" and added "America is the source of all evil in the world."

Soviet anti-corruption campaign reaches into high places

For the first time, systematic bribery of Soviet officials by foreign businessmen has been widely publicised in the country's newspapers. Patrick Cockburn assesses the significance of the jailing of a senior Kremlin official.

MOSCOW — The jailing for 13 years of Mr. Vladimir Sushkov, the former Soviet deputy foreign trade minister, and his wife Valentina for 11 years marks an escalation of the Kremlin's campaign against corruption which is starting to affect senior officials.

The month-long trial of Mr. Sushkov for corruption by the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union, details of which were recently published by the trade union daily Trud, is significant because it is clearly intended as a warning to all Soviet officials who have commercial dealings with foreigners.

The revelations about the extent of Mr. Sushkov's corruption — on his return from business trips aboard a mini-bus used to

meet him at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport because his official car was too small to carry all his purchases — is proving extremely damaging to the foreign trade ministry at a time when it is fighting to retain control of Soviet imports and exports.

This monopoly was formally ended at the beginning of this year when 21 ministries and 75 enterprises were given the right to trade abroad. But in the years between 1974 and 1985, when Mr. Sushkov was deputy minister, the ministry had total control of all Soviet commerce with other countries.

The case started at the end of 1985 when customs at Sheremetyevo airport found jewellery and video equipment in the luggage of

Mr. Yevgeny Kuzminykh as he returned with Mr. Sushkov from a short business trip abroad.

Mr. Sushkov is said to have whispered to him: "Don't give away too much to the investigator, don't name a single person or a single episode." The deputy trade minister then rushed to his dacha in Barvikha, a prestigious area on the western fringes of Moscow where many senior officials have villas, where he began to bury in the garden coffee jars filled with jewellery and foreign currency.

There was a lot to hide. When Mr. Sushkov's town house was eventually searched, police found 1,565 gold brooches, diamond pendants and rings worth more than \$1.6 million, as well as other property worth \$500,000. Other goods which the couple had never bothered to look at lay unopened. Trud says these goods

had been accumulated over the years in the form of bribes from foreign businessmen looking for contracts in the Soviet Union as well as systematic fiddling of expenses during the 120 trips Mr. Sushkov had taken abroad.

The revelations about corruption in foreign trade dealings are important because they are the first time that systematic bribery of Soviet officials by foreign businessmen has been widely publicised in the Soviet media. Trud said there are officials who "selflessly fight for every kopeck of the people's money" in contract negotiations but added that Mr. Sushkov was not among them.

The court heard details of how an Italian company supplying specialised chemical products had first made contact with Mrs. Sushkov, a senior official of the State Committee for Science and

Technology, who arranged meetings for the head of the firm with the ministries handling chemicals and petrochemicals. The Italian businessman nicknamed Mrs. Sushkov "the golden senora" for her expensive tastes.

Altogether, Mr. and Mrs. Sushkov received \$200,000 from this company whose head was quoted as testifying at their trial that "the activity of my firm in the Soviet market depended on them." The goods and jewellery they received were not paid for out of my account but were bought with the firm's money."

Sketching in Mr. Sushkov's background, Trud says he came from an ordinary family. At the start of the last war, although already aged 21, he was fortunate to be sent for further education as an engineer rather than going into the armed forces. In the 1950s, he headed the Soviet trade

mission in Italy and then for 10 years up to 1974 he was in charge of the foreign trade organisation responsible for importing machinery and equipment from the West. How did he get away with it for so long? Trud says that the real reason was that the foreign trade ministry was one of those organisations which occupied a zone in which criticism was forbidden. "Glasnost (openness) could not penetrate to their offices where the curtains of their windows were always drawn," the newspaper says.

Despite efforts to extend the right to trade abroad to other Soviet organisations, the foreign trade ministry still retains an effective monopoly over Soviet exports and imports. Nevertheless, the Sushkov case had badly dented the credibility of its claims to special expertise in foreign commerce — Financial Times feature.

Life in the IRA — no money, no medals, then cell or cemetery

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

BELFAST — The IRA have just 250 full-time guerrillas in Northern Ireland who earn a pittance, get no medals and are warned on joining that they are most likely to end up in a cell or a cemetery.

For 300 members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) have been killed since 1969 in the battle to oust Britain from the province, and the guerrilla group says up to 10,000 members have been through Northern Ireland jails.

But still they come, volunteers for a cause that offers them a weekly salary of just £20 (£32) if they are unemployed and little kudos in the Catholic community where they are tolerated rather than admired.

That is at least the pen portrait of the IRA and its gunmen that emerges from journalists Patrick Bishop and Eamonn Mallie in their book "The Provisional IRA", a profile of the guerrilla group.

Highlighting the traits of today's typical activist, they say the cult of personality has never caught on in the IRA where "it is necessary to die before you can become a hero."

About 80 per cent of the IRA's current membership have fathers, uncles or brothers in the movement whose instruction manual "The Green Book" preaches the merits of modesty, abstinence and discretion.

The authors, tracing the IRA's history since Britain partitioned the island in 1921, stress what a tragedy in endless acts Northern Ireland is, writing "as long as Ireland is divided, violent Republicanism will be an ineradicable tradition." About 2,500 people have died in the north in the last 20 years.

The book, based on a string of interviews within the Republican movement, probes the finances of the IRA which has won worldwide notoriety with such spectacular attacks as the murder of Britain's Earl Mountbatten and the Brighton bomb blast targeted at British leader Margaret Thatcher.

The authors calculate it costs about £2,500 (\$4,000) a week to run the IRA's Belfast brigade with most of the money coming from sophisticated tax frauds, several mini-cab taxi firms and a string of social clubs across the Catholic ghettos of the city.

The clubs are scrupulously well run with proper stewards, solid-

tors and accountants. "When the police wish to check the books, they are courteously received and offered a drink," the authors note.

"Another major source of money was fraud involving tax exemption certificates in the building trade which boomed in the 1980s as the old terraces of Belfast were knocked down and rebuilt," they added.

The organisation views the United States primarily as a source of guns. One stocky Corsican there, when asked where the arms were heading, told the court which sentenced him to five years jail: "somewhere cool and green."

The authors said that arms and money flowed for several years from Libya's leader Muammar Qaddafi because: "The country's apparently boundless oil revenues and the impulsive nature of its leader had given it a reputation as a soft touch among revolutionary freeloaders the world over."

Their weapons vary in sophistication from deadly effective car bombs and model aircraft remote control radio devices to the so-called "durex bomb," sulphuric acid wrapped in candlewax and then cocooned in a condom.

Stingers send Afghan guerrilla war into new phase

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — The arrival of sophisticated Western missiles has moved the nine-year-old Afghan guerrilla war into a new phase, according to rebel and Western analysts.

The shooting down of scores of helicopters and planes by U.S. Stinger missiles in recent months has lifted guerrilla morale and forced Soviet and Kabul government commanders to change tactics.

Increased bombardment by artillery and heavy ground-to-ground rockets are replacing air bombing, strafing by helicopter gunships, and helicopter-borne assault, they say.

Bombing raids are now made from greater heights or at low level. "Because of the Stingers they are either flying too high, so most of the bombs miss, or too low, where they are easier to hit with our machine guns," an Afghan analyst said.

Reports are also reaching Islamabad, in neighbouring Pakistan, that the Communist-led forces are beginning to use helicopters for bombing raids at night, he added.

The three-week battle in May

and June for a valley near Jaji, in the eastern province of Pakia, illustrates the change in the nature of the war.

The area straddles important supply lines and infiltration routes for guerrillas operating in many parts of eastern and central Afghanistan and Kabul has often sought to cut them.

In May an armoured column with several thousand troops, including elite Soviet forces, advanced eastwards into the valley. Initially the rebel posts around the valley were subjected to air attacks, according to guerrilla reports.

But after several aircraft were shot down, the attackers had to rely more on their ground forces. They were eventually forced to withdraw after some of the most intensive fighting of the war, with hundreds of casualties on both sides.

A senior U.S. official has portrayed the engagement as a demonstration that the guerrillas can take on Soviet troops in a lengthy pitched battle and fight them to a standstill.

But Western diplomatic analysts in Pakistan said the Jaji situation was unique and cautioned against assuming the rebels were strong enough to repeat their "victory" elsewhere.

The guerrillas were backed up against the Pakistani border, 60 more than a few kilometres from major supply depots in Pakistan's Kurram salient, and were able to use unprecedented supplies of arms, they said.

One group fired up to 1,000 rockets a day at the height of the engagement, a quantity impossible to transport to most conflict zones.

Control of the area was also very important for the prestige of the main rebel political commanders, apart from its value as a transit route.

"These things don't apply anywhere else in Afghanistan, it's only in Jaji," one analyst commented.

Three of the seven Pakistan-based Mujahideen organisations took part in the battle and cooperation among the often quarrelsome groups was undoubtedly a factor in the success.

But Mujahideen spokesmen say rival factions have worked well together in many battles in different parts of the country before and Jaji was not unique.

The effect of the Stingers — and of British Blowpipe missiles which Moscow says have been used against aircraft in Afghanistan — has also been evident in other recent fighting.

Greece could become nation of waiters, Communist chief says

By Granville Watts
Reuters

ATHENS — Greek Communist Party chief Harilaos Florakis waved his pipe and declared: "If measures are not taken we will become a nation of waiters."

Florakis said the sagging Greek economy was getting worse and Greek industry was being crushed by what he called the "super industrial powers of Europe."

"There is a problem of national sovereignty. We could end up serving the Germans, the French, the British and the rest," he told Reuters in a rare interview.

Florakis, 73-year-old secretary general of the Greek Communist Party (KKE), led Communist guerrilla forces in the mountains of northern Greece during a four-year bloody civil war from 1945 in which royalist forces aided by Britain crushed the Communists. He had also led partisans against the German occupying forces earlier in World War II.

In those days he often hid in

caves. Now he has a luxurious office at party headquarters called the House of the people on the outskirts of Athens.

It is a large 11-floor building of glittering glass and concrete with a huge bust of Lenin in the forecourt, and reflects the important role the party plays in the Greek scene.

Looking across at Parnitha mountain from his office Florakis mused: "I used to hide on that mountain."

He reflected on the 18 years he had spent in Greek jails until his party was finally legalised after the military junta was ousted in 1974.

"I was in the interior of the interior," he quipped — an allusion to the fact that his party is sometimes called party of the interior, to differentiate it from a party of Euro-Communists.

It seems Florakis was always fighting governments. "I was jailed by all of them before 1974," he said.

Now he is becoming increasingly critical of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's Socialist government.

"There is a great mass of people which wants social change, changes that will bring the country towards real socialism," he said.

Florakis said that a two-year austerity programme introduced by Papandreu in October 1985 to stabilise the economy had failed.

The programme included a wages freeze which led to a spate of strikes and was strongly condemned as unfair by the Communists.

Florakis pointed out that government figures showed the government target of reducing the current account deficit to \$1.2 billion by the end of the year would not be achieved.

"In July it already stands at more than \$1.3 billion," Florakis said.

He said a government effort to cut inflation to 10 per cent from

16.9 per cent by the end of 1987 was also stumbling and was likely to be more like 15 per cent at year's end.

Economy Minister Costas Simitis has admitted to reporters that there were shortfalls in the government's stabilisation efforts so far this year.

Florakis had earlier angrily rejected criticism by Papandreu who told parliament in Athens that the spirit of recent glasnost (openness) changes in Moscow had not yet reached the Greek Communist Party.

Florakis spoke about a surprisingly long meeting lasting two hours 45 minutes which he had with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last year.

He mentioned what he called Gorbachev's ability to create an "atmosphere of cordiality and intimacy. There were moments when I felt I was talking with a known and long-time comrade," he said.

"It is impressive, the new modern way of thinking that comrade

Gorbachev brings to the developments in the international scene," he said.

On the home front, Florakis said he was no prophet but that logic led him to believe that Papandreu, who is not due to hold general elections until the summer of 1989, would probably hold early elections next year.

He said one factor was that the economy was not likely to improve next year and Papandreu faced the tricky question of whether American military bases in Greece should stay or go.

Florakis said he believed the majority of Greek people wanted the bases to be closed after the current agreement expires at the end of this year.

But he said the fact that Papandreu had sought negotiations with the Americans for a new agreement showed he wanted the bases to stay, although this policy could cost his ruling Pasok Party votes.

Florakis was firm that there would be no Communist Party

support for Pasok in any new general elections.

Withdrawal of support by the Communists in municipal elections last October caused Pasok to lose Greece's three main cities.

"There cannot be any discussion nor should anyone have any suspicion of any kind of electoral support to Pasok in a government which increasingly heads in a conservative direction," he said.

"Pasok not only lost three major cities in the municipal elections, but its losses were generally heavy. The time has gone when parties like Pasok in the name of anti-conservative unity considered the addition of leftist 'votes as given'."

Florakis denounced the present electoral law as unfair and repeated his call for a simple proportional representation system.

"For example, according to the electoral percentage of voters our party should have about 30 seats in parliament and it has only 10," he said.

Zimbabwean village blooms under Anna's care

Sally Mngabe, wife of the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, is helping to lead the struggle for women's development in that country. Both she and her twin sister, Esther Boobene, who is head of the National Family Planning Council, have given support to a movement which links improvements in women's incomes with literacy and birth planning. Here Celia Curtis reports on a new film about the programme.

AT the height of Zimbabwe's liberation war in the 1970s, Anna Mngabe was providing for 15 children and supplying food, money and shelter to freedom fighters when they came to her village on the high plateau north of Harare. Today, with her husband, Martin, she has difficulty growing enough food for the daily needs of her family of seven children, even though they helped to organise a local co-operative gardening group, named *Kutumbura* (Struggling People).

"There are few trees and we must walk miles into the hills for firewood. If the land had been this bad when I was a young woman, I would not have had nearly as many children," she said.

Anna was elected by the women of her village to go for training as a community-based teacher of family planning, literacy and income-generating skills. The experiences of Anna and her friends in Domboshawa will soon be seen around the world in a film for the Only One Earth series made by BBC Television. Co-sponsored by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), it will also be shown throughout English-speaking Africa by Family Planning Associations.

The film deals with many of the issues which confront African men and women today — such as the traditional pressures to give birth to large numbers of children and the scarce resources existing for the support of those children.

Anna tells how her husband went off to work in Harare for 16 years while his family was growing and the guerrilla war was raging in the countryside.

"I had no help with money and whenever he returned home he would give me a baby and then leave. My mother-in-law often said, 'If you get this child off the breast, then I can take care of it and the other little ones while you have more.' But then she died, and instead of her taking care of my children, I had to take care of all Martin's eight younger brothers and sisters as well as my own children," she said.

When Anna was chosen by her neighbours for training as a teacher, she asked her husband's permission and then had to face the problem of how her children would be cared for while she was away, as her husband continued to work in the city. On her return to the village, she found her crops dying for lack of water. But with her training behind her, she was proud to be able to pay for her children to be educated and anxious to help other women to

look beyond child-bearing as the only way open to them of taking pride in themselves.

Anna spent two weeks learning how to teach basic literacy, mathematics and book-keeping to others. She returned home for a few weeks to survey the needs of her own community and then spent another fortnight at the training centre for Community Based Teachers (CBTs), 40 miles east of Harare, learning to teach family planning. Another visit home was followed by a final period at the centre to learn "income-generating techniques". Development jargon for learning how to manage money.

When Anna and her fellow students graduated, Sally Mngabe, the wife of Robert Mngabe, Zimbabwe's prime minister, came to dance with them in celebration. She urged them to share their new knowledge unselfishly, as their teachers had done.

When Anna returned to her "Struggling People" gardening group she found it at a particularly low ebb. It had never done well as the group lacked the skills to organise effectively and to obtain sufficient loans. Even though they had bought a small diesel pump, some pipes and wire to fence the garden to keep out livestock, they had planned poorly. Their cabbage, carrots, tomatoes, onions, cauliflower, broccoli, okra and peppers were wilting.

Anna and the group promptly drew up a budget of \$1,300 for cement and other equipment to enlarge their dam to save the



Anna teaches women in a village literacy class (Photo by Barbara Pyle)

garden. The change in Anna after her courses was much more immediate and obvious than any change in the garden. She had always been a strong and silent leader. Now she was an articulate, talkative leader with a purpose.

"I am anxious to set a good example by working hard so that the women can do the same and earn a good salary and be able to support themselves," she said.

Where African women are usually painfully shy in discussing the intimate details of sex and family planning, Anna was suddenly frank and forthright. She said that now she and her husband were much closer. They sat

and talked things over and made plans for the family. "He even boasts about me with relatives and friends, even in the bars."

Changes in attitude do seem to be occurring, as women move from wanting only to space their children to wanting fewer babies. Anna was one of nine children, and her friends in the gardening group come from families of nine, 10 and more. Most of Anna's generation have five to seven children. A recent national survey of girls aged between 15 and 19 found that they wanted an average 4.6 children. Anna's daughter, Olivia, said she wanted only four children. Her sister, Velma, aged 14, wanted only

two.

Such changes can have startling results in a few generations. If a woman has 10 children, and if succeeding generations follow suit, she will have 1,000 great-grandchildren. If she has four, she will have 64 great-grandchildren.

The fortunes of the Struggling People's garden remained precarious as the group continued to seek a favourable loan to enlarge the dam. Anna was not sure she could do this in time to save the harvest. But she was sure that she and her friends would make the right choices eventually — People features.

'Firefleas' woo minuscule mates with irresistible incandescence

By Mercer Cross
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Every evening in the shallow waters over Caribbean island reefs, tiny animals the size of sesame seeds stage a spectacular ballet of luminescent blue dots, glowing strings of underwater pearls.

The display has one purpose: sex. The dots are biochemically punctuated marks squirted into the water by male marine "firefleas" — ostracods of the genus *Vargula*, crustaceans distantly related to shrimps and crabs.

As the minuscule *Don Juans* bob up and down, they flash their incandescent signals to bottom-dwelling females, which they hope to arouse and bring swimming to the source of the light.

Swim...zoom!

Using their antennae as oars, they can swim remarkably fast — 60 body lengths a second. A 6-foot human swimming that fast would cover 360 feet in a second. Unlike many other marine animals, which simply spew eggs and sperm into the water, the firefleas breed by copulation.

But many of the outnumbered males are doomed to lives of celibacy. There are at least 100 males for every available female. To make matters even worse, the waters are full of non-luminescent males that are more than willing to sneakily steal the joys of mating from their harder-working brothers.

The nightly show begins about an hour after sunset and lasts about an hour. Few humans are even aware of it, and fewer still have seen it.

For one thing, it occurs during the cocktail and dinner hour, when most people aren't diving. Those who do usually use bright lights, which make the firefleas dive back to the reef. For the human voyeur peering into the depths from above the surface, there's not much to see.

The only way to really find out what's going on is to don a wet suit and get right into the black water with the firefleas.

That's what James G. Morin, a biology professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, has been doing for the past seven years. His research has been supported partly by the National Geographic Society.

"It's very much like looking down on a suburb or a rural town from an airplane at night," he says in describing the fireflea display, "except that the lights go on and off on a regular basis."

In all world's oceans

The genus *Vargula* exists in all the world's oceans. Only in the Caribbean, however, are there known species that luminesce. When Morin began his research in 1980, there were four such species. He has added 35 to that number and expects to find more. They differ from island to island. Males of the most common type swim upward or downward,



Microscopic view of a male "fireflea" shows the antennae (at far right) and trailing along lower right side of its body) that propel it through Caribbean waters at remarkable speeds. Secretions from its upper lip glands create phosphorescent blue dots in nighttime mating displays.

producing 20 or 30 intermittent spots of light, each spot glowing for 10 or 15 seconds. Once the first fireflea has started the sequence, 30 or 40 other males on the reef follow suit, creating a brilliant exhibition visible through 30 or more feet of clear water.

Each species has its own distinctive dot pattern. Some are vertical to the surface; some, oblique or horizontal. Some patterns are simple; others are complex, such as the one that Morin describes as looking "just like a bunch of jets flying in formation." Then there are the less common "pulsing" types. Clusters of these firefleas flash brightly but briefly all at once, for only a quarter-second at most.

Vargula of both sexes light up frantically and vividly when attacked by predators, creating a blue glow the size of a grapefruit. This has what Morin describes as the "burglar-alarm" effect: The dazzling light attracts a bigger fish to take away the original predator.

As a result, other creatures about the size of the firefleas gain some protection, Morin says, "because the fish are going to be wary of picking on anything that

looks at all like an ostracod." Plenty of research remains to be done on the mysterious crustacean, he says. He wants to learn more about the evolution of its communications system, and about the relationship of such systems to those of other animals. He'll study the mechanics of how the luminescent signals are produced. From all this he hopes to learn more about the natural history of the Caribbean.

It's no coincidence that firefleas and fireflies have similar names. The most obvious parallel is that "they both use light to get

the sexes together," Morin says, although light production and mating techniques differ greatly.

Both creatures operate only in darkness. Firefleas prefer living in dark water just above reefs, usually 15 to 30 feet below the surface. They tend to stay in one specific area, and they don't interbreed with other species.

And they have their own kind of modesty. Morin has been unsuccessful so far in getting firefleas to breed in a laboratory. "We think it's like trying to get humans to copulate in a restaurant," he says.

Papers show other personal sides of Einstein

By Allyn Fisher
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Stacks of letters and notebooks left by Albert Einstein offer a rare glimpse of the scientific genius' personality, his often-troubled personal life and behind-the-scenes involvement in world politics.

The 43,000 documents, stored in a basement library after his death in 1955, depict a sensitive man who was beset by divisive family problems and was sometimes a victim of anti-Semitism.

Unpublished letters that Einstein exchanged with Israel's first president Chaim Weizmann, show Einstein was a committed Zionist although he often displayed an ambivalence toward Judaism.

He repudiated the religion at a young age and frequently criticized Weizmann for the way Jewish settlers treated Arabs in Palestine before formation of the Jewish state.

Einstein introduced President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the wonders of the atomic bomb in 1939, but said the bomb might be "too heavy for transportation by air."

Other letters reveal details about Einstein's family problems that plagued him as a young man, although they rarely appear to have distracted him from his work in physics.

Because of emotional ties to the Jewish state, Einstein bequeathed his personal papers to Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The documents, written in German, were made available to the Associated Press by the University's archives.

Most of the papers, held together with plastic paper clips to avoid damage, are travel logs and letters written to people ranging from Roosevelt to Einstein's first wife, Mileva Marie.

Einstein had an illegitimate daughter, Lieserl, and a son who was mentally ill, according to the letters. Both children are rarely mentioned by him later in life.

Dozens of letters between Einstein and his first wife portray a stormy relationship, with frequent separations and eventual divorce in 1919, largely a result of his mother's meddling in their life.

Because of his mother's objections, Einstein delayed the wedding for years, until after Lieserl was born.

"She cried like a child," Einstein wrote about his mother's reactions to the marriage in 1900. He said his mother objected because his wife was an intellectual instead of a housewife and was four years older, 25 to his 21.

Einstein's first wife, who was in his college physics class in Zurich, was also an important sounding board for the young scientist's work.

He once wrote her about nearly dropping his theory of relativity because of a simple mathematical error.

"I wrote to you that I doubt my ideas about relativity. But my concerns were based on a computing error. Now I believe it more than ever," Einstein wrote in 1901, 21 years before winning a Nobel Prize in physics for the research.

The letters include frequent complaints by Einstein of being unable to find work.

The German-born Einstein never mastered English and had



Albert Einstein

most of his letters to Roosevelt translated. On the backs of his drafts, he often doodled physics formulas.

"I'm studying English, but it won't stick in my old brain. Einstein once wrote in his diary. Even in German, he frequently made spelling mistakes."

Many of Einstein's personal letters could not be read because his daughter from his second marriage, the late Margot Einstein, had requested they be kept secret, librarians said.

But thousands of documents are to be published over the next few years. About 150 documents were included in a volume published this spring by Princeton University in New Jersey, where Einstein once taught.

Among other papers in the Einstein collection are packets of notebooks and travel diaries. In his logs from one trans-Atlantic voyage in 1931, Einstein commented on everything from passengers' habits to the shapes of fish in the sea.

Once he apparently got seasick. In the same sentence he wrote about his study of mechanics, Einstein broke off and added, "The ship is creaking ... The doctor says older people often get sea sick. It seems to be true."

In another passage, he wrote: "Yesterday, I took a look at the ship's engine, the diesel motor. The engineer is very intelligent. The people on this ship are especially vulgar."

In one log of a trip to New York City in 1931, he complained at length about being badgered by reporters and Jewish fundraisers.

As a victim of Nazi persecutions, he was drawn to the Zionist movement which founded Israel but was critical of Jewish militancy toward Arabs in the 1920s.

"If we don't find a way of honest cooperation and honest dealing with the Arabs, we have not learned anything during our 2,000 years of suffering and deserve any fate that will hit us," Einstein wrote.

Anti-Semitism apparently dogged Einstein even after he found refuge in the United States.

His employer at Princeton, Abraham Flexner, director of the institute for advanced study, once cancelled Einstein's plans to spend a weekend at the White House, saying he feared publicity about Einstein's presence would put anti-Semites on his trail.

"There exists in New York an irresponsible group of Nazis ... If the newspapers had access to him ... it would practically be impossible for him (Einstein) to remain in his post ...," Flexner wrote on Nov. 3, 1933.

Schak receives papal medal for charity work

AMMAN (J.T.) — Miss Debora Schak, associate director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine in Amman, is being honoured today at a reception hosted by Rev. Joseph L. Ryan, S.J., director, in the gardens of the Pontifical Mission office in Jabal Lurweideh on the occasion of her being awarded the papal medal "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" (For the Church and the Pontiff), according to a Pontifical Mission press release.

This medal is given by the Pope to persons who have given extraordinary service in the work of the Catholic Church. It was presented to Miss Schak in Rome on June 24 by Simon Cardinal Lourdusamy, prefect of the Congregation of Oriental Churches.

Attending the ceremony of presentation were Msgr. John G. Nolan, president of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine, and the group of representatives of agencies which assist the Catholic Church in the Middle East and in other areas under the jurisdiction of the Oriental Congregation.

The following day, Pope John Paul II received this group, including Miss Schak, at a special audience in the Clementine Hall in the Vatican.

Miss Schak came to Amman in 1971, opened the first Pontifical Mission office on Jabal Lurweideh, and became its administrator. Up till that time the activities



Pope John Paul II receives Miss Debora Schak, associate director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine in Amman, at the Vatican following her being awarded a papal medal for extraordinary service to the Catholic Church.

of the Pontifical Mission in Jordan had been carried out by representatives from Jerusalem and Beirut or by Franciscan Fathers working out of Terra Santa College.

Miss Schak, a native of St. Paul, Minnesota in the U.S., after attending the College of St. Catherine in that city, obtained her B.S. degree in agriculture from Ohio State University in 1965. She became a member of The Grail, an international association of dedicated women whose headquarters are in Loveland, Ohio.

As a member of The Grail, Miss Schak worked in several

international enterprises, first in Hong Kong from 1954-60 in a hostel for young refugee women, and later from 1967-68 in Goa, training women in techniques of improving village and cottage animal and plant production. Immediately before coming to Amman, Miss Schak served from 1968-71 as an agricultural expert in New Delhi, India, in activities which brought her to many parts of India.

In her years with the Pontifical Mission for Palestine in Amman, Miss Schak has become known to many Jordanians for her selfless dedication and warm compassion.

The Pontifical Mission for Palestine is an agency of the Holy See, established by Pope Pius XII in 1949 out of his deep concern for Palestine and for all those affected by the war there. Its purpose is to assist, without distinction of nationality or religion, all those who suffer because of the repeated conflicts which have devastated Palestine and the neighbouring regions of the Middle East since 1948. Today the Pontifical Mission, in its field offices in Jerusalem, Beirut and Amman, encourages and supports projects and programmes of relief, rehabilitation and development.

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N. Korea adamant in seeking full 1/3 of Olympics, raises communist boycott

S. Korean delegation says Seoul in no mood for further concessions

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Agencies) — North Korea on Tuesday repeated a demand for a full third of the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics and again raised the spectre of a Communist Bloc boycott.

"We must have eight full sports," Chung Guk Chin, the vice-president of the North Korean Olympic Committee (NKOC), told Reuters before starting two days of talks aimed at resolving the crisis.

"We must have all the football competition, as well as wrestling, gymnastics, judo, table tennis and archery," he said in his hotel lobby.

"All socialist countries have publicly backed our demand to share the games. None has said it will go to the games anyway if our demands are not met," he added.

To head off the crisis, the Lausanne-based International Olympic Committee (IOC) offered last year to give Pyongyang all eight events in the table tennis and archery competitions and part of the cycling and football.

This was a fraction of the 23 full sports, including 237 individual events, but it would be the first division of the Olympics because of a political dispute since the modern games began in Athens in 1896.

North Korea rejected the IOC compromise as too little and pressed on with its demands and boycott threats.

The IOC awarded the games to South Korea in 1981, after Seoul spent billions of dollars on what many sport commentators consider the finest Olympic facilities in history. North Korea demanded in 1985 the right to share the games.

North and South Korea have been bitter rivals since the Second World War and fought a war between 1950 and 1953. Pyongyang said the games should serve as a symbol of the future reunification of the Korean people.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch opened a fourth round of talks between the North and South at IOC headquarters Tuesday, saying he was optimistic a solution could be found.

But Samaranch insisted that no significant changes in the IOC compromise would be made, and no star attractions would be transferred to North Korea. "We might have little changes, an event here or there, but absolutely nothing substantial. Our offer has been made," he told Reuters.

Samaranch and the 11-member IOC executive board started separate talks with the delegations from North and South Korea earlier in the day, and will hold a joint session on

Wednesday.

The vice-president of the South Korean delegation, Man-Lip Choy, said his delegation was in no mood for further concessions. "These are our games, not theirs. We've probably given away too much already in the name of the Olympic spirit."

Choy said his delegation would focus on practical matters involved in transferring those events conceded to the North and would not discuss significant changes.

Another member of the North Korean delegation, Chun Il Pak, told Reuters Pyongyang's shopping list also included demands for men's basketball, women's volleyball and women's handball.

Both Pak and Choy said North Korea wanted the entire football competition, not just the single preliminary round conceded by the IOC last year.

The talks were the first since June 1986 and the fourth since North Korea issued its co-host demand in late 1985, four years after the games were awarded to Seoul.

Although Samaranch indicated Tuesday that a third day of talks could be added, Michele Verdier, the IOC spokeswoman, said Tuesday that no additional days had been added yet to the calendar of the meeting.

Samaranch says no more sports will be offered, although some

unspecified "minor concessions" could be made to the four-sport plan on the table since the last joint meetings.

Samaranch, a former Spanish ambassador to Moscow, has been hit hard by the North's refusal to allow an IOC delegation to cross the border into South Korea at Panmunjom on the Demarcation Line.

The IOC president, usually upbeat especially where the Olympics are concerned, said allowing the crossing would have been a good-will gesture by the North, and that he was "extremely disappointed" when it was rejected.

Now, Samaranch appears ready to conduct talks aimed at "the conclusion of a definite agreement."

The joint session was scheduled for all day Tuesday and Wednesday morning. But a news conference set for midday Wednesday was pushed back, to allow for more talks if needed, and during a procedural session Tuesday Samaranch told NKOC Vice President Chin Chung Guk that he was prepared to stretch the talks into Thursday if progress was being made.

The Seoul games are set to start Sept. 17, 1988. Invitations will be issued by the IOC one year in advance, although Samaranch has not set a deadline for concluding the North-South talks.

No explosives found after bridge threat in Tour de France

LUZ-SAINT-SAUVEUR, France (AP) — Spectators of the Tour de France cycle race were evacuated from a bridge Tuesday after a news agency received a telephone warning that the bridge was going to blow up.

In a call to the French news agency Agence-France Presse in Toulouse, an anonymous caller said the bridge would be blown up at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT) and then hung up.

Authorities cleared the Napoleon Bridge of spectators at 3:30 p.m. (1330 GMT), according to police sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bomb experts called to inspect the bridge announced at 4:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) that no explosives had been found.

The course of the 14th stage of race had been diverted from the bridge earlier in the day and rerouted to another bridge near the Pyrenean Mountain town after a suspicious vehicle was found parked on the bridge. Bomb disposal experts who examined the car said it did not contain explosives.

Security around the race on Tuesday was tight with nearly 300 gendarmes on patrol after the arrest Saturday of two suspected Basque guerrilla men, who police said were carrying weapons and explosives and had planned to attack the race.

One man escaped arrest and is still being sought. He was identified as Philippe Bidart, reputed head of the French Basque terrorist group Iparretarrak.



THE UPS AND DOWNS OF SOCCER: match, played within the Premier League Championship, ended with a 1-1 tie (Photo by Abdallah Ayyoub)

Belgium promises fair trial for Heysel hooligans

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Belgian Justice Minister Jean Gol has promised a fair trial for 26 English soccer fans who face extradition to Belgium for manslaughter in a 1985 riot which killed 39 people in Brussels' Heysel Stadium.

Britain's highest court, the House of Lords, on Monday granted a Belgian government application to extradite the 26, overturning a lower court ruling in April which freed them on technical grounds.

Asked if they would have a fair trial, Gol said: "I have said since the beginning of this affair that Belgian justice is above any suspicion for the way it will try these people."

Monday's decision means the fans can avoid trial in Belgium only by appealing to British Home Secretary (interior minister) Douglas Hurd, who has a final say in extradition proceedings.

But Gol said he was confident Hurd would give the go-ahead. The 26 would then be flown to Belgium as soon as possible and

held in prison at Louvain, just outside Brussels, he added.

The fans are likely to be tried by three judges with no jury and if convicted could face a maximum sentence of 10 years in jail each.

Gol said the exact procedure and date for the trial would be fixed in consultation with the British government.

But he reacted angrily when asked if the trial would be over this year. "We will try and have the trial as soon as possible... the Belgian government did not invite these people to come to our country in May 1985 and commit crimes," he said.

Attorney to seek trial in Britain

Meanwhile, a defence lawyer said Monday in London that the 26 English soccer fans, who face extradition on a manslaughter charge, will seek to be tried in Britain.

On the day the Belgian government won the latest round in its

legal battle to extradite the fans. Sir Harry Livermore, who represents ten of the accused, said the next move was to try and persuade Mr. Hurd to stage their trial in Britain.

The 26 are being held in custody facing a sample manslaughter charge arising out of the deaths of 39 mostly Italian people at the 1985 European Champions' Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus of Turin at Brussels' Heysel Stadium.

The people who died, including 34 Italians, were trampled when a wall collapsed as they tried to escape from fighting fans.

"Nobody is saying they should be acquitted," Livermore said. "If they are found guilty they should be punished."

What concerned the defence lawyers, he said, was the length of time the fans would have to remain in custody awaiting trial in Belgium, coupled with the language difficulties.

"There is a very good case to be made out for all 26 not to be extradited," Livermore said.

Indonesia to study introducing football lottery

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian President Subarto Tuesday ordered a review of a popular national football lottery which has been criticised by Muslim scholars as a form of gambling.

Social Affairs Minister Nani Sudarsono told reporters a committee would probe the social impact of the tote, which critics say has turned adults and even children into gambling addicts.

"The government does not want to see people get in trouble because of the porkas (lottery)," Sudarsono said after a meeting with Suharto.

Porkas sheets, sold by street vendors in much of overwhelmingly Muslim Indonesia, offer the chance to bet on results of football matches around the world. Winnings can be handsome.

The Muslim-based opposition United Development Party made porkas a big issue in general elections in April.

Provincial officials have complained that tote sheets are sold near mosques and schools.

Income from the state-run lottery contributes about \$7.5 million a year to national sports programmes, Sudarsono said.

Romanian swimmer in for last try for gold at Universiad

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (Agencies) — Romanian swimming sensation Noemi Lung gained herself the chance of a sixth gold medal at the World Student Games Tuesday.

Lung, who has claimed four Universiad records in freestyle and medley races, helped Romania to the second best qualifying

time for the 4x200 metres freestyle relay but the U.S. quartet was more than 15 seconds quicker at the sports centre.

The 19-year-old Lung admitted she was feeling tired going into the final swimming events but knows she must become used to such exertion — she plans to compete in five events plus relays at next month's European Championships in Strasbourg.

In athletics, men's and women's 100 metres finals were being held later Tuesday with women athletes also competing for gold in four other events, including the 400 metres hurdles and high jump.

U.S. coach Stanley Huntsman said his sprinters, who lagged behind Frenchman Bruno Marie-Rose's qualifying time of 10.30 seconds, were looking forward to the final.

Diving also enters the medals stage Tuesday with the finals of the women's springboard.

Brazil's plunge feared to reflect on 1990 World Cup qualification

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil, which in the past has won the hearts of millions of soccer fans around the world, could for the first time fail to qualify for the finals of the 1990 World Cup, some local observers fear.

The picture is very grey. If, unlike other times, we have to play our key World Cup qualifying second leg matches away, say in Colombia or Paraguay, I fear we may not make it to Italy,"

former star midfielder Gerson Nunes, a member of Brazil's 1970 World Cup winning side, has said.

Brazil is the only country to appear in all World Cup finals since the competition started in 1930 and has won it three times.

The shock 4-0 trouncing by Chile in the South American Cup was regarded as the most humiliating defeat suffered by Brazil

since they were beaten 5-1 by Belgium, in a friendly match in 1963, in Brussels.

Unfortunately our current crop of players and officials cannot match their illustrious predecessors. Besides, we are creating too many fake idols," said Afonso Soares, a commentator for the prestigious Globo Radio Network.

Where we had Pele we now have Edu Marangon where we had Joao Havelange (president of FIFA, the world's governing soccer body) we now have Octavio Pinto Guimarães and Nabi Abi Chedid," he added.

Both Gerson and Soares agree that other South American countries are learning their soccer lessons and have improved their quality of play.

But "we are going from bad to worse. In my days," Gerson said, "we never discussed the amount of our bonuses before the start of a competition. This time, the players were demanding \$2,000 a head — including for the reserves — to beat Venezuela. This is outrageous."

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY NOTICE

As from week commencing Sunday August 2, 1987 the Australian embassy in Amman will accept applications for visitor visa issue and immigration enquiries only on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week (public holidays excepted).

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6137/47	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3179/84	Canadian dollar
	1.8430/37	West German marks
	2.0740/50	Dutch guilders
	1.5367/77	Swiss francs
	38.22/25	Belgian francs
	6.1340/70	French francs
	1334/1335	Italian lira
	150.80/90	Japanese yen
	6.4275/4325	Swedish crowns
	6.7450/7500	Norwegian crowns
	6.9925/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	447.20/447.70	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (AP) — Share prices on the London stock exchange closed at a record high Tuesday for the fourth straight trading session.

Dealers said buying interest materialised following an early steep drop due to profit-taking. One dealer said foreign buying was mainly responsible for the sharp rise in prices.

Among major gainers, Hawker Siddeley rose 19 pence to 616 amid continued speculation that BTR might make a bid for the engineering group. BTR shares were up 2 at 356.

Standard Chartered also rose 16 to 514 on speculation it might become a takeover target, dealers said. In company news, Standard Chartered said it appointed Australian businessman Robert Holmes a court as a deputy chairman of the bank.

Other banks were mostly higher. Barclays was up 3 at 616, National Westminster up 16 at 748, and Lloyds up 4 at 402. But midland was unchanged at 638 after the bank said it had received an expression of interest in the purchase of Greenwell Monagu securities, its equity brokerage arm.

Store closed mixed. Great Universal stores was up 10 at 14.51 pounds and Marks and Spencer was up 1 at 267.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can come to a fine understanding with associates by delegating authority and finishing work which has piled up. Don't ignore the possibility of accidents.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You must budget your time wisely if you're to handle all your responsibilities and have time left for socializing.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) A unique talent you possess can be helpful if sharpened. Try to be more charming to those around you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Home activities may require more attention than you thought. Handle your correspondence when you're not busy.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) If you have a chance, try to reinforce ties with old friends you haven't seen for some time.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 22) Collect on loans and other debts to make bill-paying easier. Get plenty of rest tonight, you'll need it tomorrow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Concentrate on your own ideas and forget about being helpful for the time being. Your desires are within reach.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid stirring up any arguments with your mate, and form a plan of action to succeed in fulfilling your goals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A friend who is depressed needs your help. Being a good Samaritan today may end up being quite beneficial.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Handling public and financial affairs should be your first priority. Evening work may be necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Traveling a fair distance will be worth the trip, although not immediately apparent. New friends can be made today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Keep the promises you have made and get them off your mind. You can achieve domestic bliss with your mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Although boring, a long discussion with a partner is necessary. Be very articulate and cautious in any agreements.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will develop a lifetime plan while still very young. A very creative and scientific mind is developing here, so an education in engineering, architecture or electronics would be beneficial. A good diet and plenty of exercise are necessary to avoid health problems.

Kuwait revives bond market to attract foreign borrowers

BAHRAIN (R) — Kuwait is cautiously nursing its bond market for foreign borrowers back to life as it attempts to shake off a five-year-old debt crisis and nervousness over the bloody Iran-Iraq war on its doorstep.

The World Bank last month launched a 30-million-dinar (\$106 million) bond, the largest ever issued on the market.

It followed a 20-million-dinar (\$70 million) borrowing by Kuwait in May that effectively ended a five-year government moratorium on issues by foreign borrowers.

Bankers said demand from Kuwaiti investors had been strong and two more issues were believed to be in the pipeline.

Mr. John Finigan, head of capital markets at the National Bank of Kuwait which arranged both issues, told Reuters: "The market had been closed because of gross indiscipline... in its very excesses were sown the seeds of its destruction."

But the reopened market, carefully monitored by Kuwait's monetary authorities, has attempted to minimise speculation and to place bonds firmly in the hands of long-term investors.

Kuwait's bond market dates back to 1969, but by 1979, amid a flurry of speculative trading by local and international banks, it had to be closed down by the central bank. The market was reopened in 1980 only to be restricted again in 1982.

Some bankers remain cautious

and stress the need for a closely controlled and gradual renaissance.

Mr. Richard Stutely, chief economist at Borgan Bank in Kuwait, said: "It is a slightly dangerous situation... the money markets in Kuwait are not very well developed. We have had cases in the past where international bond issues have got out of hand and the central banks stepped in."

But Mr. Stutely and other bankers see the market as part of an important move to rebuild confidence eroded by the Gulf war and Kuwait's \$90 billion 1982 collapse of stock trading.

While Kuwait, bordering on Iraq and within earshot of the southern warfront, can do little about the conflict, it has embarked on a comprehensive programme to repair damage to the banking system caused by the "Sunk Al Manakh" share crash.

Kuwait's seven commercial banks were hit heavily by a mountain of post-dated cheques which were not honoured. A government debt settlement programme unveiled a year ago has gone a long way to clearing up that legacy.

In the light of these problems, bankers see the decision of Finland and the World Bank to borrow in Kuwaiti dinars as no small vote of confidence in the emirate.

Mr. Finigan said the two new issues, both paying interest to

investors at 7½ per cent, had been handled by all-Kuwaiti consortia, avoiding the involvement of international banks that had contributed to speculative trading in the 1970s.

"We want to avoid the trading excesses of the Euromarkets," he said.

In recent months Kuwait's central bank has been faced with a classic dilemma of trying to foster business confidence through lower interest rates while preventing capital outflows.

Earlier this year, the central bank cut domestic interest rates three times, but as fighting in the Gulf war intensified and dollar interest rates rose it was forced to drive up rates again by cutting off liquidity aid to the money market in May.

Mr. Stutely said: "A major question must be the danger of capital outflows."

But recently the central bank entered the market to stem a rise in rates that some bankers saw linked to a drain of liquidity caused by the World Bank issue.

For "prime name" borrowers such as Finland and the World Bank, the attraction of dinar bonds is primarily in currency diversification away from more traditional borrowings.

In addition, the cost of the World Bank's borrowing is slightly more than one percentage point cheaper than a similar, seven-year, deal in the dollar bond market, bankers said.

Bolivia exchanges debt for vast conservation scheme

WASHINGTON (R) — In a deal conservationists hope will be copied extensively, Bolivia agreed Monday to set aside a virtually untouched rain forest in return for a reduction of its \$4 billion foreign debt.

The agreement, signed at the Bolivian embassy, called for Citicorp to purchase outstanding Bolivian debt at the discounted market price and sell it to Conservation International, an ecological organisation.

Conservation then turned the note, which is valued at \$650,000 over to the Bolivian government, which then agreed to set aside and protect 3.7 million acres in the northern part of the country.

In a briefing for reporters Conservation Executive Director Peter Seligmann said the new accord sets a precedent that could transform the way Third World debt is reduced.

He said that Conservation is presently in negotiations with four other Latin debtors but declined to name them.

The debt owed by Bolivia, a critically poor country is being sold in the marketplace at a discount of about 85 per cent.

Thus, the debt cost only about 15 per cent of its face value, allowing the \$650,000 note to be retired at a cost of only \$100,000, the latter amount was donated by the Frank Weeden Foundation, a San Francisco philanthropic

organisation.

The new conservation area is adjacent to the existing Beni Biosphere, a unique Amazonian region in northern Bolivia that supports 13 of the country's 18 endangered animal species.

The Beni is also the home to the Chimane, a nomadic group of hunters and gatherers.

Mr. Seligmann told reporters that Third World nations have begun depleting their natural resource reserves — fisheries, minerals, forests — in an attempt to pay off almost \$1.1 trillion in overseas debt.

"The prospects for debt-servicing and sustained economic growth are being undermined, not strengthened, by the growing pressure being placed on the resource bases of economically depressed nations," he said.

Mr. Seligmann said that the new accord is a step in helping reduce a growing environmental crisis.

He said that forests throughout the tropics are being destroyed at an unprecedented rate. Critical watersheds are deteriorating and vast numbers of animal species are becoming extinct or threatened.

"Environmental degradation and weak economies, deforestation and poverty, overpopulation and hunger are now recognised as clearly interrelated," he said.

Chase, First Chicago report sharp losses

NEW YORK (AP) — Two big U.S. commercial banks, Chase Manhattan Corp. of New York and First Chicago Corp. reported sharp second-quarter losses Monday, reflecting their decision to increase loan-loss reserves against shaky Third World loans.

Chase Manhattan, the nation's third-largest bank holding company said it lost \$1.4 billion in the three months ended June 30. During the same period a year ago Chase earned \$145.76 million.

For the first six months of 1987 Chase said it had a consolidated net loss of \$1.3 billion, compared with net income of \$289 million in 1986.

First Chicago, the 11th largest bank holding company, reported a net loss of \$698.3 million, compared with net income of \$63.6 million in the 1986 quarter.

For the first half of this year First Chicago lost \$633.32 million.

Both companies, among the many major U.S. banks to recognise the vulnerability of many credits to less-developed countries, had said they would suffer huge quarterly losses because of the increase in their loan-loss reserves.

The banks have cited the decision by Brazil, the developing world's biggest debtor, to halt interest payments on its international bank debt in February.

Iraqi president stresses need to raise productivity

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — President Saddam Hussein has renewed his call for Iraq's industrialists to increase production to stimulate the country's war-battered economy, the official Iraqi News Agency reported Monday.

It quoted a speech the president made to industrial officials June 7 and which was published by Baghdad newspapers Monday.

President Saddam has recently initiated a series of reforms aimed at raising productivity in state-run enterprises and liberalising the private sector and import regulations.

President Saddam, whose country is burdened with a foreign debt estimated at around \$50 billion, called for innovation in applying controls imposed by Iraq's Baath Socialist government on investment and imports.

"Life does not accept ready-made formats or rigid methods and formulas for action should not become dogmas," he declared.

Among the key measures taken recently were a major shake-up in the state-run sector, included sell-

ing off unproductive assets and moving thousands of civil servants to work in government-run enterprises that currently account for about half Iraq's industrial sector.

President Saddam also criticised state officials for relying too much on import credits and urged entrepreneurs to stimulate the economy and utilise domestic resources.

"Credit should not be taken as free of charge," the president was quoted as saying. "It's a delayed financial commitment and when the state is overburdened with commitments conditions will be more complicated."

Before the war with Iran broke out in September 1980, Iraq had foreign currency reserves of around \$50 billion earned from its oil exports.

But because of high spending

early in the war, aimed primarily at cushioning Iraq's 15 million population from the economic impact of the war, and a drop in oil prices, Baghdad had to suspend letters of credit with many foreign companies.

It has also had to negotiate rescheduling its foreign debt repayments with its major creditors, including West Germany, France, Italy, Japan and Yugoslavia.

However, Iraq has the second largest oil reserves in the region after Saudi Arabia.

Oil Minister Issam Al Chalabi said last month that Iraq is currently exporting more than two million barrels a day through two pipelines through Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

Iraqi exports are expected to increase to around three million barrels a day when a new pipeline through Turkey is opened shortly, government officials have said.

Iraq is a member of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, but is excluded from an agreement to curb production to boost prices.

EC ministers agree on farm funding

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The European Community (EC) farm ministers Monday agreed on a funding plan to keep the trading bloc's farm subsidies programme solvent through the rest of the year.

The agreement was reached by 10 of the 12 member countries, Holland and Greece still making reservations. It was expected, however, that they will lift them after the European Parliament has approved the agreement, which is considered likely.

The member countries will delay farm subsidy payments for up to two months to cover the esti-

mated deficit of over 4.3 billion European Currency Units (\$4.9 billion) in the current year.

Under an accounting switch, farm payments for November and December will not be made by the EC in advance, as at present, but will be delayed until next year.

Instead, the member states will advance the cash to farmers and traders and then get their money back from Brussels. The four poorest EC states — Greece, Ireland, Spain and Portugal — will get an interest of 6.8 per cent from EC funds on the cash they will advance.

The commission said the change, which is to remain in effect until the governments agree on a different scheme, will allow the EC to survive its acute financial problems.

The switch from advances to reimbursements was approved in principle by EC government leaders at their summit in Brussels last month.

The commission estimated it will cost 27.2 billion ECUs (\$31 billion) this year to subsidise guaranteed farm prices and to pay for the storage of surplus food.

Coca-Cola to reenter Gulf Arab markets

ABU DHABI (R) — The U.S. soft drinks giant Coca-Cola plans to return to the lucrative Gulf market in earnest after 20 years on the Arab boycott list.

Industry sources said authorities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman had approved the sale of Coca-Cola and construction of a licensed bottling plant at Al Ain, an oasis city on their border 160 kilometres east of Abu Dhabi.

Coca-Cola's arch rival PepsiCo, not on the boycott list, had enjoyed virtually unchallenged dominance in the Gulf.

At stake throughout the Arab World is a Coca-Cola market estimated at nearly five billion bottles a year.

A Coca-Cola official in England, from where its Middle East operations are directed, confirmed the company and local authorities had approved the project for the UAE and Oman.

Industry sources gave no date for the start of construction of the

plant but said sale of imported Coca-Cola could begin in the two countries as early as September.

Coca-Cola was placed on the Arab League company boycott list in 1967 because it had a franchise bottler in Israel.

But since then it has managed to return to a number of Arab countries, mainly in north and east Africa.

The Coca-Cola official said the drink was sold in Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Somalia, Djibouti and North Yemen — its only holdout on the Arabian peninsula.

Coca-Cola was bottled briefly in Sudan under former president Jaafar Al Numeiri, then banned again when he was overthrown in April 1985.

The company official said, however, there were no negotiations under way with either the Arab League or individual Arab governments on removing it from the list.

Soviet trade with West falls

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership's drive for economic renewal suffered a setback with the news that trade turnover with the West fell by 18 per cent in the first three months of 1987 against the same period last year.

Data published in the foreign trade journal Uneshnyaya Torgovlya showed that Soviet imports from the West dropped by 23.1 per cent and exports by 10.7 per cent as Moscow posted a deficit of 562.4 million roubles.

The figures mark the fifth successive year that trade with the West has fallen in the period from January to March. In the first three months of 1983, when the trend began, turnover was about 50 per cent higher than in the same period this year.

The latest deficit was lower than the 1.25 billion roubles (\$1.95 billion) recorded in the first three months of 1986, but economists said this was achieved by slashing much-needed imports of Western industrial equipment and technology.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Instead of cutting the grass, I used mousse to give your lawn a punk hairdo!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HEWIG

GLARN

DINTAB

LICKEF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

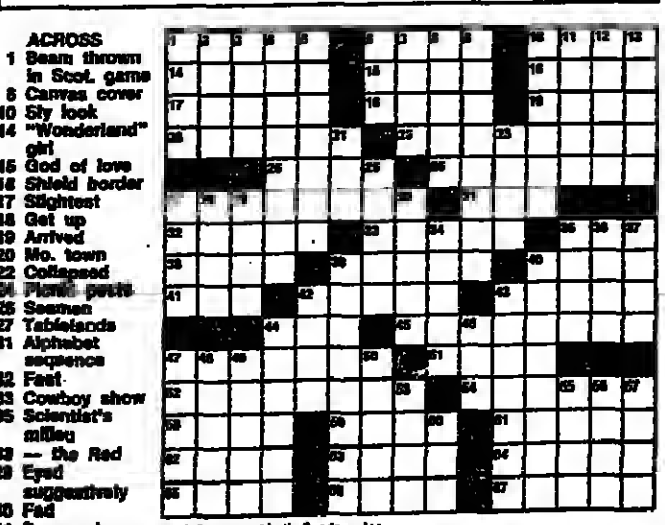
Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MEALY INEPT SLOUCH FORMAL

Answer: What he got from rearranging A NEW "LEASH" ON LIFE

THE Daily Crossword by Robert O. Wilson



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:

1. Thorny flowers; 2. Introduced; 3. Sila; 4. Mute of poetry; 5. Mr. Gantry; 6. Hollow atoms; 7. Depict; 8. Venetian resort; 9. Push forward; 10. Kind of school; 11. abbr.; 12. Byron poem; 13. Second bull of Egypt; 14. Shoe parts; 15. Cause to be late; 16. Dated; 17. Exalted; 18. Part of n.b.; 19. Footnote; 20. Get back; 21. Stender apine; 22. Hit a 2-bagger; 23. Speak; 24. Made; 25. Reverts; 26. Madly; 27. Gambling town; 28. Type of jazz.

Filipino army widens hunt for coup plotters

MANILA (R) — The Philippine army Tuesday widened its hunt for serving officers and men implicated in a plot to seize passengers from incoming international flights in the latest bid to topple President Corazon Aquino.

Manila's international airport, which the plotters had planned to seize, remained on 24-hour alert, heavily guarded by shotgun-wielding police and special troops.

Senior officials said there was no apparent link with an elaborate scheme by Ferdinand Marcos to invade the country he once ruled.

Intelligence sources, however, told Reuters that Marcos, through his money and his supporters, remained the biggest threat to Mrs. Aquino.

Military and political analysts called the plots a last ditch attempt to disrupt the July 27 convening of a newly-elected two-house congress which will complete the Philippines return to a democracy last during Marcos' rule.

The military, interrogating a major and four other middle-ranking officers over the plot, said it was seeking a further 20 men from the Paramilitary Constabulary, the army and the air force.

A smiling Aquino, questioned on her way to a scheduled meeting with military chiefs, appeared unconcerned at the new flood of coup plots and rumours that have dogged her 18-month presidency.

"Well, I'm glad that they're investigating these suspected plotters," she told reporters.

Mrs. Aquino promoted 21 colonels and navy captains to generals in a ceremony seen by analysts as part of her move to consolidate her relations with senior officers while bolstering the morale of an

army Marcos once held in a tight grip.

Mrs. Aquino also promoted Armed Forces Deputy Chief Renato de Villa to lieutenant-general, and Army Chief Restituto Padilla and Southern Mindanao Commander Cesar Tapia to major-generals.

Intelligence sources linked prominent Marcos supporter Rafael Recto and one-time Manila Vice-Mayor James Barbers to the plot but both men denied involvement.

"They are crazy ... this is all foolishness," Mr. Recto said on radio.

Senior intelligence sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters they believed the Marcos faction formed the only significant threat to Mrs. Aquino's otherwise popular administration.

"Much of this is the work of fantasy, but they can be a real threat still. They are powered with a lot of money and money can produce results," one added.

The latest plot was leaked publicly at the weekend as the Philippine was still digesting the revelation that Marcos had planned from his Hawaii exile to mount a massive invasion, involving 10,000 men and millions of dollars worth of sophisticated weaponry.

The scheme was generally ridiculed in Manila but prompted warnings from the U.S. State Department which said it had restricted Marcos' movements. Defence Secretary Rafael Nieto

told reports the authorities had uncovered no direct connection between the two schemes.

Meanwhile soldiers clashed with Communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels north east of the capital Tuesday, killing three guerrillas and wounding three, the military said.

A Philippine Constabulary report said the battle occurred about 7 a.m. (2300 Monday GMT) at Tibalo village at San Luis town, 140 kilometres from Manila in Aurora province.

It said a patrol of scout rangers exchanged fire with 15 NPA rebels. The report did not mention any casualties among the soldiers.

The military also said it captured two rebel camps and killed five guerrillas Sunday in a mountainous region of central Mindanao Island.

Brig-Gen. Manuel Dizon, commander of the army's 34th Brigade in Malaybalay, 950 kilometres south east of Manila, said Tuesday both camps were near Quezon, a town about 80 kilometres to the south.

Rebels free hostages

Muslim rebels have freed two kidnapped United Nations workers in the Southern Philippines, but one of the released women warned Tuesday that more hostages might be taken.

Filipinas Teofila Smith, 34, and Linda Madrid, 26, were handed unharmed Monday after five days in captivity to a government emissary at a rebel mountain hideout in Masiao town, Lanao Del Sur province.

The kidnappers had demanded \$20,000 for the women's release but emissary Norodin Lucman, son of the provincial governor, said he paid no ransom.

Moscow may agree to scrap missiles in Asia

WASHINGTON (R) — Soviet arms control official Sergei Chuvakhin has said Moscow could agree to a NATO demand to scrap all medium-range missiles in Asia if Washington reduced its nuclear forces in the Pacific.

"We are ready to agree on zero if the American side would be ready to eliminate nuclear forces of the region of Japan, the Philippines and the Far East," Mr. Chuvakhin, arms control counselor at the Soviet embassy in Washington, told a symposium sponsored by Harvard University Monday.

He said Moscow had made specific proposals at the Geneva arms control talks but Washington "flatly refused" to discuss reductions in its Asian forces.

He declined to give details of these proposals but he told Reuters: "The United States has aircraft carriers, fighter bombers, which can strike Soviet territory. There are some other nuclear systems in this region."

Mr. Chuvakhin and Kenneth Adelman, head of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, traded charges on who was responsible for lack of progress in arms control negotiations.

Mr. Adelman said the Soviet side had refused to bargain on major issues, while Mr. Chuvakhin said a hostile U.S. attitude had poisoned the atmosphere.

"I hoped I would hear something new from Mr. Adelman," Mr. Chuvakhin said, "but unfortunately we can see the same aggressive line against Soviet arms control policy."

The United States last Friday publicly acknowledged the arms stalemate, accusing the Kremlin of playing a delaying game in order to wring new concessions from Washington.

Mr. Adelman said he was disappointed the Soviet Union had not agreed to a U.S. proposal for a meeting this week between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Mr. Adelman accused Moscow of not being interested in resolving such issues as its demand to retain in Asia 100 warheads for medium-range missiles which have a range of 1,000 to 5,000 kilometres.

The United States had said this demand would not impede a treaty, but it has repeatedly made clear it would prefer to eliminate this class of weapons entirely, as NATO proposed at a recent foreign ministers' meeting.

Taiwan announces end of 38-year martial law

TAIPEI (R) — President Chiang Ching-kuo Tuesday formally announced an end to 38 years of martial law.

The announcement, made in a brief presidential statement, follows last week's parliamentary vote to end martial law after the cabinet approved its lifting and introduced a national security law as a replacement.

Interior Minister Wu Poh-Hsiung said Tuesday: "The lifting is a major event in Taiwan's politics. It is a big step in our march towards constitutional democracy."

Martial law, ended at midnight, has been in effect in Taiwan since 1949 when Kuomintang (Nationalist) forces retreated to Taiwan after being defeated by the Communists in a civil war in China.

Mr. Wu urged all people throughout Taiwan to support democracy.

Political analysts have said the

lifting of martial law would boost Taiwan's international image and strengthen its unofficial relations with the United States.

Mr. Chiang has ordered his cabinet to study the possibility of reducing the jail terms of civilians convicted by military courts and restore their civil rights.

Sources close to the cabinet said the government might commute such jail terms by about half.

Opposition politicians welcomed the lifting of martial law but have strongly opposed the new national security law, which they call martial law in another guise.

Foreign businessmen lauded the government moves to lift martial law, saying Taiwan will win more friends as a result of its political reform.

"Now we expect the political reform to catch up with Taiwan's remarkable economic progress," a foreign banker said.

Nakasone calls Toshiba Machine exports treachery

TOKYO (R) — Toshiba Machine committed treachery by illegally exporting advanced machinery to the Soviet Union that was used to upgrade its armed forces, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Tuesday.

"The fact that such a violation was committed by Japanese citizens or a Japanese company is a grave act of treachery not only towards America, but toward the Japanese people," Mr. Nakasone told the budget committee of the lower house of parliament.

The United States has been outraged by Toshiba Machine's sales in the early 1980s of advanced milling machines to the

Soviet Union. U.S. officials said the machines were used to make Soviet submarine propellers almost silent.

"We have no direct proof of what was done (to the nuclear submarine propellers), but there was subsequently a major change," Mr. Nakasone said.

International Trade and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura told the same committee his ministry would thoroughly investigate to determine whether there had been any similar violations of rules among industrialised democracies governing exports to Communist countries.

Kohl: Peking, Bonn seek long-term cooperation

PEKING (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, rounding off talks with Chinese leaders, said Bonn and Peking sought lasting and stable cooperation.

Meetings with senior leader Deng Xiaoping and Premier Zhao Ziyang were conducted in complete harmony and mutual trust, he told a news conference in the Great Hall of the People.

Mr. Deng earlier described West Germany as China's most important partner in Europe and the official New China News Agency quoted Mr. Zhao as saying that relations had embarked on a road of long-term and steady development.

"We and our Chinese partners are seeking long-term, stable and comprehensive cooperation which will bring benefits to future generations and be continued by them," Mr. Kohl said.

"Our country needs friends and reliable partners in the world. We are convinced that China can and will be such a reliable friend and partner," he said.

West Germany is China's leading trading partner in Europe with two-way business totalling more than \$4 billion last year. Mr. Zhao told the West German delegation China wanted to boost its exports to cut its trade deficit with Bonn.

Mr. Kohl said Bonn was willing to see the number of Chinese students and industrial trainees in West Germany rise to 3,000 from the present 2,000 within the next three years.

Panama seeks to boost social programmes

PANAMA CITY (R) — Military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega has met President Eric Arturo Delvalle and his cabinet to discuss a wide range of social programmes, a communiqué from the presidential palace said.

The statement said the leaders discussed the recent wave of political unrest but concentrated on the need for new programmes in "education, health and housing to benefit the country's socio-economic development."

A presidential spokesman said there was a growing demand for public works projects and assistance for Panama's overwhelming majority of poor.

"While people are down on

50th Street waving their white handkerchiefs we've got peasants dying of hunger out there," the spokesman said.

The reference to 50th Street was to part of the fashionable banking district where caravans of mostly middle-class Panamanians have demonstrated their discontent with the government recently by waving white handkerchiefs.

Diplomats said it appeared clear the government was addressing the need to improve the lot of the poor out of concern that Panama's masses may soon join the middle-class led revolt against Gen. Noriega's authoritarian style rule.

Dhaka charges opposition leaders with rioting

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Twenty-six opposition leaders and activists were charged Tuesday with provoking riots to protest a law giving the military more power in local governments, said police.

Meanwhile, protests against the law brought Dhaka to a virtual halt for a third day Tuesday. The capital city of 4 million people remained relatively quiet amid scattered monsoon rains during the early hours of the dawn-to-noon general strike.

There were no immediate reports of renewed violence after two days of street battles Sunday and Monday between police and demonstrators.

The general strike closed most shops and emptied the streets of Dhaka on what an alliance of opposition parties declared "a black day of protest."

Groups of students chanting "down with President Ershad" and "down with militarisation policy" marched in small processions, escorted by vans packed with riot police.

Police sources told the Associated Press that eight top opposition leaders, including former Home Minister Abdul Mannan and former Foreign Ministers Abdus Samad Azad and Kamal Hossain were among those

charged with rioting, assault on police and destruction of government property.

The charges stem from a protest march in Dhaka on Sunday, the first day of the most widespread anti-government protests in Bangladesh since martial law was lifted last November.

At least 100 people, including seven policemen, were injured in the first clash, which broke out minutes after the 330-member parliament, dominated by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's Jatiya Party, passed a law adding armed forces members to the nation's 64 district councils.

Soon afterward, a crowd gathered at the city's main square and began a march toward parliament.

The law passed Sunday allows the government to appoint a military representative to each of the nation's 64 district councils. The move will give the military a say in local administration and development programmes.

Opposition legislators walked out of the chamber, saying the measure amounted to a renewal of martial law.

The other five leaders who have been charged are Amir Hossain, a general who restored civilian rule on Nov. 10 after 4½ years of martial law, faces opposition charges that he continues to run a military administration after the formal lifting of martial law.

Gen. Ershad has repeatedly denied the charge, saying his government has restored "real democracy" in this turbulent nation of 103 million people.

COLUMNS 7G8

Stallone files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Sylvester Stallone has announced that he has separated from his wife of 19 months, Danish-born actress Brigitte Nielsen, and filed for divorce on grounds of irreconcilable differences. The announcement, which followed months of denials by the 41-year-old star of the popular Rocky and Rambo films, was made by Stallone's publicity agent, Paul Bloch. Stallone, who has two children from his 10-year marriage to Sasha Stallone, wife of Nielsen, 24, in December 1985 in a tightly guarded private ceremony. Nielsen was also married once before. Nielsen, who has a leading role in Eddie Murphy's hit film Beverly Hills Cop II, said she fell in love with Stallone when, as a teenager, she saw the film Rocky. She appeared with Stallone in Rocky IV. In March Stallone issued a statement saying that "vicious rumours that we are separating and getting a divorce are totally false and inaccurate." Stallone, who is filming Rambo III, is Hollywood's highest-paid leading man, earning an estimated \$16 million per film.

U.S. to ban smoking on short flights

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives has voted to ban smoking on airline flights of two hours or less. The ban, approved by a vote of 198 to 193, was contained in an amendment to an \$11 billion transportation appropriations bill. The no-smoking amendment must still be adopted by the Senate, and signed by President Reagan before becoming law.

U.S. to evacuate AIDS victim from China

PEKING (R) — A U.S. Air Force plane is expected from the Philippines Wednesday to evacuate an American AIDS victim stranded at Kunming, in south-west China, a U.S. embassy spokesman said. The spokesman told reporters that an aircraft, probably an air ambulance, was due to leave Clark Air Base Wednesday, pick up 38-year-old Brent Anderson and fly him home via the Philippines. He did not know how long the trip would take. The U.S. authorities decided to intervene after China's national airline, CAAC, and the U.S. carrier Northwest Orient refused to take him. The spokesman said the mission would cost \$40,000 and would be paid for privately. He declined to say whether Anderson would have to pay the full amount.

Saudi Arabia arrests drugs dealer

RIYADH (R) — A drugs dealer holding more than three million narcotic pills was arrested in Saudi Arabia, and the man who caught him will get a \$6,600 reward. The official Saudi Press Agency, reporting the arrest, did not name the trafficker but said policeman Mohammad Hashem Regan would receive a 25,000-riyal reward.

Woman seized with pouched kangaroo

BRISBANE (R) — Australian police have stopped an American woman from taking a baby kangaroo on board an airliner. The three-month-old animal, wrapped in a blanket, was discovered in a small bag just before Tracey Weinstock, 26, boarded a flight from Brisbane to Mount Isa in Queensland, a police spokesman said. Weinstock, who said she had been rejected by its mother, was not charged. But police confiscated the kangaroo and sent it to a state-run sanctuary near Brisbane. It is illegal in Australia to carry an animal on a commercial flight. Now police have to work out how Weinstock brought the kangaroo, which she found in Mount Isa, to Brisbane in the first place.

Surgeon begins house arrest in slums

LOS ANGELES (R) — A Beverly Hills brain surgeon convicted of owning apartment blocks infested with vermin and cockroaches began 30 days under house arrest in one of his slum apartments after an electronic "watchdog" was locked on his ankle. Milton Avol, will be confined to the unit from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. and during the day will help work crews make repairs at the building. Avol, who has been the target of substantial housing investigations since 1977, was fitted with a surveillance anklet that will alert authorities if he strays more than 50 metres from the apartment. He can have visitors. He has already spent 15 days in a detention centre after being convicted of violating health, fire, building and health safety codes in a building the prosecution said was infested with vermin and cockroaches.

Church calls Masonic rituals 'blasphemy'

YORK, England (AP) — Leaders of the Church of England gave an overwhelming vote of support to a church report saying the rituals of Freemasons are blasphemous. The policy-making General Synod, at its regular summer session in York, voted 394-52 with five abstentions to endorse the report and commended it for discussion in the Anglican State Church. The report, "Freemasonry and Christianity: Are They Compatible?" stopped short of advising church members to resign from Masonic Lodges, but said some Christians found Masonic rituals disturbing and "positively evil." Margaret Hewitt, an Exeter University sociologist who chaired the seven-member panel that produced the report, told the synod: "Matters concerning Freemasonry have been a matter of concern to Christians both in this country and elsewhere for many years." But a clergyman Mason in the synod, the Rev. Dennis Ede, who failed to push through an amendment that would have stopped discussing the subject further, warned the report could lead to berry-hunting.

Chinese urged to stop illegal gamblers

PEKING (R) — China has urged the families of illegal gamblers to help police stamp out the phenomenon, after the discovery of a secret gaming den outside Peking. "The masses, including the relatives of gamblers, should assist the police ... Everybody must wipe out this phenomenon as if it were a rat crossing the road," the Peking Daily said. The paper said gambling had wrecked Chinese families and social order before the Communist revolution and was now reemerging. All gambling has been illegal since 1949. A man named Lu Fuxi and three others have been sentenced to two years "education through labour" for running a gambling den in a hotel near Peking, it added. They arranged Mah Jong Games where the stakes reached \$100, or four months' pay for a typical Chinese factory worker, earlier reports said. Most of the gamblers at the all-night sessions were from China's newly-rich class of private entrepreneurs, they said. Last week bank officials were sacked after robbers escaped with gold bullion from a treasury in north-east China while guards gambled.

Experts seek to halt capture of pandas

PEKING (R) — A Chinese scientist has called for a halt in the capture of rare giant pandas for zoos and said the endangered species had more chance of surviving in the wild. Professor Hu Jinchu told an international conference on wildlife conservation in China that 100 pandas bred in captivity in Chinese and overseas zoos since the early 1960s had died early because they lived out of their proper environment. Zoos were often unable to provide enough arrow bamboo, the pandas' ideal diet, he said. The shortage of arrow bamboo in the wild is a major reason for the plight of the panda, now thought to number only about 1,000 in western China. Hu said only pandas needed for scientific research should be kept in zoos. The others should be allowed to remain in their mountainous, wooded native habitats. Pandas are highly popular in both Chinese and overseas zoos. In China, some are taught to perform tricks for audiences. Last month, the China Daily newspaper quoted Chinese scientists as saying there was little chance of saving the panda from extinction. "The only effort we can make is to put off its doom as long as possible," it quoted a researcher as saying.

Australian government seeks strong industrial base

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's Labour Party government, elected during the weekend for a record third term, will lay the foundation for the country to enter the next decade "holding its head up among industrial nations," treasurer Paul Keating said Tuesday.

Mr. Keating, in a radio inter-

view three days after the general election, said he wanted to remain in his present job to complete the restructuring of the economy.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke, who is in the process of selecting his new cabinet, has said important ministries, such as the treasury, would remain unchanged.

U.K. agrees to ease access to U.N. war crime files

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Britain is prepared to consider proposals for easing access to U.N. war crimes commission files but wants to maintain safeguards against irresponsible use of untested material, a British spokesman has said.

He was giving details of a letter sent to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar last Thursday by British U.N. representative Sir Crispin Tickell.

The letter was in answer to a

request from Mr. Perez de Cuellar who is canvassing the views of the 17 countries that served on the commission between 1943 and 1948 about Israel's campaign for public access.

Under rules established when the commission was disbanded and its dossiers handed over to the United Nations in 1948, only governments may have access to the archives, containing the names of some 40,000 alleged war criminals.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K762 ♣K98 ♣93 ♠J752
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A42 ♣Q107 ♣KJ93 ♠K65
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9823 ♣2 ♣Q10652 ♠65
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9823 ♣2 ♣Q10652 ♠65
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?

IRAQI-JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT COMPANY TENDER

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Co. invites bids for the supply of the following:-
A. 150 truck-tractors.
B. 150 semi-trailers (general cargo).
C. 2 truck-tractors (heavy cargo).
D. 4 low bed semi-trailers (heavy cargo).
E. 15 semi-trailer/tank (vegetable oil).
F. 15 semi-trailer (car carriers).
A copy of the tender terms and specifications may be purchased from the company's main offices in Jabal Amman, opposite to the Tunisian embassy for the sum of JD 100 non-refundable.

All offers are to be submitted by 12.00 hours on Saturday Aug. 15, 1987 accompanied by a bid bond for 5% of offer value.
Director General
Eng. Jamil Ibrahim